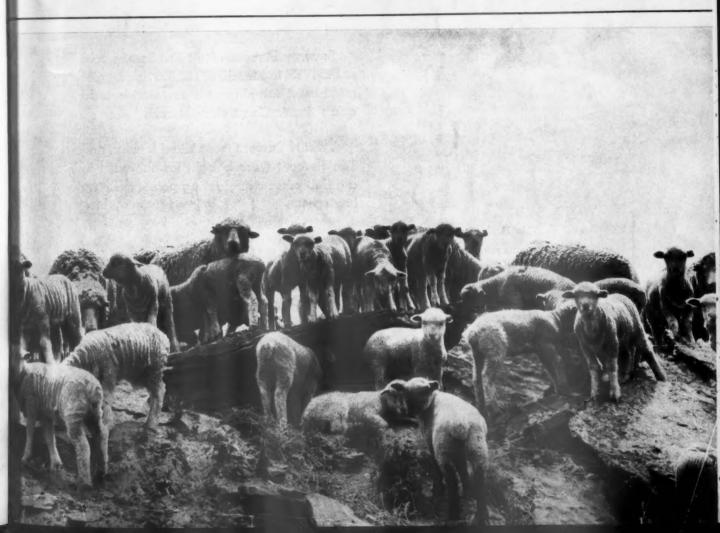
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The NATIONAL WOOL GROWER

Volume XXVIII

APRIL, 1938

Number 4



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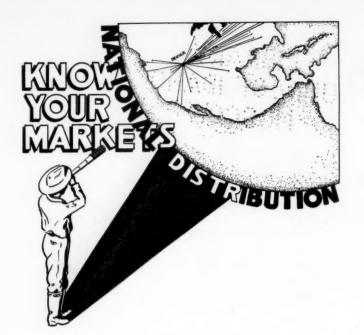
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OUTSIDE DEMAND IS HIGHLY COMPETITIVE

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Seventy Percent of all Fat Lambs sold at DENVER in March, or 120,000 head, were purchased for shipment to interior Iowa and Atlantic Coast slaughterers.

Twenty Percent were killed locally, and Ten Percent were bought for shipment to a dozen other slaughtering points to fill up low spots.

This kind of distribution means more to Producers and Feeders in the additional net received.



Meet a Customer of Yours

PERHAPS it doesn't seem like much to you when this woman drops in at her grocer's and says:

"I'll have a peck of potatoes—5 pounds of apples—25 pounds of flour—a pound of butter—a dozen eggs—and how's your lettuce today?"

But stop and consider how all these things find their way to the corner grocer.

Instead of one woman, think of twenty-five million women who do the buying for their families—your customers.

Instead of a peck of potatoes—think of 3,500,000 tons.

Think of 1,080,000 tons of apples – 8,600,000 tons of wheat flour – 440,000 tons of butter – 330,000 tons of eggs—and you begin to see the amount of food moved by the railroads every year.

The crops you raise are worth real money only when they can be delivered to the ultimate



customers — wherever those customers happen to live in the United States.

And if it were not for the railroads stretching from your farm or shipping point to every corner of the land—and their ability to carry tremendous amounts of farm products—you could raise only crops that nearby communities could use.

So the American railroads and the American farmer depend on each other. The railroads need the tonnage which the shipment of crops represents — and the farmer needs the railroads to give him a national market.

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN RAILROADS
WASHINGTON, D. C.



Greater Market

Here in the United States we have a vast unexplored market for American meat products. It is closed to us because we have not been able to lower our prices to a sound economic level... a level at which every single family in America can afford to enjoy American-produced meat.

The key to this market lies in the hands of the American producer. The original cost of production of every animal must be drastically reduced before retail prices can be lowered to meet the budget of every housewife. The stock raiser must find a way to do this through new methods of feeding and sanitation . . . through preventing the prevailing high mortality rate among his animals . . . through exercising extreme care in selective breeding. If stockmen can reduce their cost of raising the animal, American meat products can not only be placed in every American home, but a great export market can be rebuilt.

Armour and Company has already begun an extensive program of cost reduction, but this is a program which demands the cooperation of every producer and every packer in the nation. Only when this cooperation is sincerely rendered shall we be able to open up the remainder of the great American market and regain the export market which we have lost. When this has been done, the stockman will find a broader demand for his animals and the profits which they bring will be substantially greater and more certain.

Increased production at lower cost and with greater profit is the crying need of the day.

ARMOUR AND COMPANY

Robert N. Calect

Ower

KANSAS CITY—

THE SECOND LARGEST SLAUGH-TER POINT IN THE UNITED STATES AND THE CENTRAL WESTERN MARKET WITH LARG-EST AND QUICKEST DISTRIBUT-ING POWER.

"The change of ownership privilege" has brought new and broader demand, from all sections and from some sections not served by other markets.

Since offerings at Kansas City get the full benefit of nation-wide demand built around best distributing facilities, it is to the advantage of every western producer to market in Kansas City.

Sell Your Sheep and Lambs at the Center of Demand—Not on the Edge of It

The Nation
Buys Livestock at
Kansas City

CALIFORNIA RAM SALE

PUBLIC AUCTION

1700 Rams -- All Breeds
300 Purebred Ewes

at

STATE FAIR GROUNDS

SACRAMENTO, CALIF.

MAY 24th and 25th, 1938

Write for Catalog to

California Wool Growers
Association

595 Mission St, San Francisco, Calif.

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April 1938

NUMBER 4

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES—Payment of dues in the National Wool Growers Association includes a year's subscription to the National Wool Grower. Dues and subscriptions are received along with state association dues by the secretaries shown for the following states: Arizona, California Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Texas, Washington and Wyoming To non-members in the United States and Canada \$1.50 per year; foreign, \$2.00 per year.

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EDITORIAL COMMENT On Sheep and Wool Affairs

A good deal of progress was made by the Association at Washington during March and the first part of April. This page will deal nearly altogether with those undertakings.

The April issue of the Wool Grower will be a little late getting in the mails because we have had to wait until the 13th for official permission to print the details of the instructions and regulations and the form

Wool Loans of the note to be signed by wool growers who decide to get these loans.

We were furnished with an advance copy of the loan instructions and rules to be abstracted and printed in this issue.

Some wool is being contracted by dealers in Colorado and other states at prices that are about the equivalent of the loan that would be obtainable. Boston is doing some business and at prices a little above the loan equivalent. So the purpose of this marketing loan is being accomplished. The bottom of the market is in good shape. No material advances can be looked for until there is an improvement in general business and consumer buying approaches normal. At that time there can and should be price advances.

There is nothing to report on tariff matters. On April 6, I testified before the Committee for Reciprocity Information in opposition to reduction of duty on lambs from

Canada. I showed that such reductions would the Chiefly benefit New Zealand and Australia without the United States receiving any benefits of concessions in return.

There is no indication of what lowering of duties on woolen goods will be extended to the United Kingdom, or as to when the official announcement may be expected.

The Department of State appears to be having some difficulties of its own in foreign affairs and the trade agreement plan may not be going along so smoothly as it was expected to do in effecting world peace and an economic Utopia.

The Senate passed the O'Mahoney bill on April 1. It passed the House on April 4, under the direction of Congressman Kleberg (Texas) and became law by the Presi-

Top dent's approval on April 7. This put the wool top exchange under regulation by the Commodity Exchange Administration. By the time the wool market is ready to go again any abuses or unfair acts growing out of trading in top futures should have been corrected.

Our attempt to bring about the collection of proper duties upon by-products of duty-free carpet wools, when used for clothing purposes, is bearing fruit. The amendment to the customs administrative bill

H. R. 8099 (H. R. 8099), which we proposed before the Ways and Means Committee last May

was turned down. It was rejected again by the Senate Finance Committee on March 8. But on April 1, it was voted into the bill under the leadership of Senator O'Mahoney on the floor of the Senate. Now if the amendment can be kept in the bill through conference, growers will no longer have to meet the competition in the clothing trade of carpet wool noils at a duty of 14 cents and of many million pounds of other by-products of carpet wools to which the Treasury has been according entry without payment of any duty.

On March 29, the Federal Trade Commission held its final hearing for consideration of proposals of rules for the labeling of woolen fabrics. The manufacturers reversed their

Fabric Labeling previous attitude of defiance and submitted a set of rules. They still refuse to distinguish between virgin wool and reworked wool. In other respects their proposals recognize, in

part, the consumers' right to know the content of woolen fabrics offered for sale.

The Commission announced it would take the rules offered by the manufacturers' association under advisement along with the code offered by the growers on March 8, and that in a few weeks it would announce a set of rules to be observed by all producers and sellers of woolen goods.

On March 31 and the following day, hearings on labeling legislation were held before Senator Schwartz, chairman of the sub-committee of the Senate Committee on Interstate Commerce. J. B. Wilson, G. W. Cunningham and I testified in support of the new Schwartz bill. The provisions of the bill are designed to clarify the powers and position of the Federal Trade Commission in compelling the labeling of fabrics for the information of purchasers.

The Senate voted down, on April 9, Senator Pope's (Idaho) amendment to tax finished products of wheat, cotton, and synthetic fibers to raise à fund of 212 million

Processing Taxes

dollars. This money was to have been used in making further payments to farmers, under the Soil Conservation Act, in addition to 500 million dollars

already provided for that purpose.

The carriers claim that they cannot get along under

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alt Lake t special Railroads

the recent decision of the Interstate Commerce Commission which granted a 5 per cent increase in freight rates on agri-

cultural products and ten on other freight.

The President frowned down the idea of cutting railroad wages. There were several con-

ferences at the White House, at which Senators, Congressmen, railroad officials, and members of the I. C. C. discussed the rail situation. Senator Wheeler of Montana was particularly critical of the present capital structure of the carriers. It seemed for a while that the President might support a move to bring the railroad bond and stock issues down to a point more representative of their real value on the basis of earnings. Later it was suggested that the government subsidize the roads, but that idea was also rejected. Further reports and suggestions are to be submitted, but as yet there is no real assurance of adoption of the inevitable and only cure—the revamping of the capital structures.

I left Washington on April 8. It was impossible to find anyone from anywhere who would express any optimism over general business conditions in the near future. Defeat

Business of the reorganization bill that day seemed to change the picture; not so much, apparently, because of the bill itself, but because of the

resumption by Congress of its duty to vote upon the merits of proposed legislation instead of accepting dictation by the Chief Executive.

Then on the following day the Senate quickly passed a constructive and reasonable tax bill which killed the ill-begotten tax on undistributed profits. Business now has good reason to expect fairer treatment at the hands of the government.

Since September the depression has cut values and activity more seriously than they ever before fell in the same length of time. There is at least some ground now for expecting the start of recovery.

F. R. M.

Land Bank Commissioner Loans

THE National Wool Growers Association, in its annual convention in January, passed the following resolution:

We urge upon officials of the Farm Credit Administration, by legislative enactment if necessary, the need for an extension of amortized payments on Land Bank Commissioner loans.

This action of the convention was called to the attention of W. I. Myers, governor of the Farm Credit Administration, by the Secretary of the National Association on February 4 and Governor Myers' reply has been received. It reads:

February 26, 1938

Mr. F. R. Marshall, Secretary National Wool Growers Association Sale Lake City, Utah. Dear Mr. Marshall:

Upon returning to Washington I received the report of the National Wool Growers Association which you kindly sent me with your letter of February 4, 1938. I was very much interested in reading this report, particularly the recommendation on page 7 with respect to the need for extending the time of payment on Land Bank Commissioner loans.

As you know, Congress provided for loans by the Land Bank Commissioner under the provisions of the Emergency Farm Mortgage Act of 1933 and the term of the loans with few exceptions was originally limited to 13 years with the privilege of

deferring principal payments during the first three years of the life of the loan. These loans were provided largely as the result of the emergency situation by which agriculture was confronted at that time and while we feel that they should be repaid at the earliest possible date, experience has led us to realize that in many cases the 10-year period would not be sufficient to liquidate the principal of the loans. However, the Farm Credit Administration has taken the position that a general deferment of these principal payments would not be advisable and would only result in postponing the eventual repayment of the loans of many farmers who do not really need this type of assistance.

Recognizing this problem, Congress in passing the Farm Credit Act of 1937 gave

SHEEPMEN'S CALENDAR

Little International Livestock Show, Block and Bridle Club, State College, Pa.—April 30.

California Ram Sale, Sacramento— May 24-25.

Intermountain Junior Fat Stock Show, North Salt Lake, Utah—June 7-8-9.

Texas Sheep Show and Sale, San Angelo—July 19-21.

National Ram Sale, Salt Lake City— August 23-24. the Federal Farm Mortgage Corporation the power to extend in whole or in part, any unpaid obligation under the terms of any mortgage, when in the judgment of the directors, conditions justify this action. To carry out this provision of the law, procedure has been established so that each case will be considered on its individual merits with the view of granting such assistance as the borrowers' circumstances warrant. In other words, where a borrower is temporarily in distress by reason of a crop failure or some other condition which is not likely to continue, a short-term extension of the delinquent items may be justified and best meet his needs. If, however, the bank's study of the case develops that the borrower is delinquent and that the semiannual installments on the loan as now written are heavier than the income from the farm can normally carry and the borrower has no assets from which he might otherwise meet his payments, the entire loan may be extended over such period of time as appears reasonable and necessary to its orderly repayment.

In order that the federal land bank may have the opportunity of studying the individual cases, I suggest that the borrowers who, after making an honest effort, fed they cannot repay the principal of their Commissioner loans during the period written in the mortgage contract, contact the secretary-treasurer of the local national farm loan association, who is servicing the loans in their locality and discuss their problems with him. The secretary-treasurer will be in a position to advise them with regard to the filing of an application for an extension.

With personal regards, I am Sincerely,

W. I. Myers, Governor

Getting a Government

WOOL LOAN

WOOL marketing loans are to be available to growers starting on April 15 and continuing to October

The Commodity Credit Corporation at Washington, D. C., announced on April 12 that a fund of 50 million dollars had been made available to be loaned to growers in connection with the marketing of the current wool clip, together with such wool holdings from the 1937 clip as still were in the hands of their producers.

The corporation has just published its instructions for the guidance of loaning agencies, along with the form of note and other papers to be used in the administration of the loan.

The paragraphs below contain most of the material that has been issued that will be of greatest interest to growers who may desire to obtain the loans.

It is expected that wool will move as nearly as possible in its accustomed channels-that is, it will be warehoused at the same points as in other years and handled by cooperatives or dealer concerns, both of which are recognized as lending agencies.

For the most part, however, the loans are expected to go through banks and loaning agencies, situated in the principal producing states.

Eligibility

In order to be eligible for a loan, a clip must have been placed in a warehouse recognized for the purpose by the Commodity Credit Corporation. However, the grower has the option of obtaining a loan direct from the corporation. In this case, he must present an acceptable warehouse receipt and sign the prescribed form of note, sending both to the Loan Agency of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation for the district in which the wool is stored.

The corporation has announced that negotiable and insured warehouse receipts are to be issued by any public warehouse approved by the Loan Agency of the Reconstruction Finance Cor-

poration serving the district in which such warehouse is located.

Warehousing

approved warehouse must Each enter into an agreement with the Commodity Credit Corporation. The form of agreement provided for the purpose would limit the warehouseman's lien and define his obligations. It is understood that actual and charges for warehousing charges and insurance will be recognized as a lien upon proceeds of the final sale of the wool, but selling commissions are not included. These will remain to be determined and agreed upon directly between the grower and his selling agent.

Owners of warehouses desiring to handle wools to be held under government loans will make their arrangements by communicating with existing loan agencies now established under the Reconstruction Finance Corporation. Such agencies are functioning in the following cities: Chicago, Boston, Houston, Kansas City, Los Angeles, Louisville, Minneapolis, New York, Omaha, Philadelphia, Portland, Richmond, San Antonio, San Francisco and St. Louis.

The plan contemplates that growers desiring loans will arrange for them through their local banks, loan companies or wool-handling concerns. These loaning agencies have the option of disposing of all such notes to the Commodity Credit Corporation and the notes must be presented to the corporation before February 1, 1939. It is also understood that neither the growerborrower nor the original marketing agency will be held responsible in the possible event that any wool should finally be sold for less than the amount of the loan.

All loans are to be made on forms furnished by the Commodity Credit Corporation. This form of note provides for a certificate from the grower that his wool or mohair is free of any and all liens and encumbrances, or else the lienholder signs a release provided in the note.

Notes will bear interest at 4 per cent. Wool under loan may be released at any time upon payment of the note.

There is no obligation on the part of the original borrower to subscribe to any future government plan in connection with the production or marketing of wool or mohair.

Appraisal

The amount of loan for which any particular clip is eligible will be determined by appraisers who will be employed by the Commodity Credit Corporation, and whose services will be available at recognized warehousing cities. A charge of 20 cents per bag will be made for the appraisal service when the amount offered is as much as 5000 pounds suitable for selling without grading, or 25,000 pounds in the case of wools requiring grading. On wool which is graded and piled in warehouses, the charge will be 20 cents for each 400 pounds. For appraisal of very small lots, there will be an additional charge of 20 cents per bag.

The maximum loan which will be available for any particular clip of wool will be in accordance with the following list of prices which represent Boston values on the clean wool basis:

Loan Schedule on Scoured Wool

Louis Schedule on Scoured is	,00
at Boston	
FINE WOOLS Cents Per Po	und
CLASS I-Very Choice Wools	
a—Delaine	
b-Graded Territory Combing	
(Strictly Staple)	
CLASS II—Choice Wools	57
2-Choice 12-months' Texas includ-	
ing original bags; bulk combing	
length.	
b-Graded Territory; choice French	
combing length including some	
staple.	
c-Original Bag Territory; bulk staple	
length including some French	
combing.	
CLASS III—Average to Good Wool	56
a-12-months' Texas including orig-	
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inal bags. b-Graded Territory; French comb-

ing length.

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c-Original Bag Territory; Good	
French combing length.	
CLASS IV-Fair to Average Wool 54	
a-12-months' Texas including orig-	
inal bags.	
b-Graded Territory; short to aver-	
age French combing length.	
c-Original Bag Territory; average	
French combing length.	
CLASS V—Poor and Inferior 50	
a-Original bag bulk clothing and	
some stubby.	
b-Graded clothing and stubby mixed.	
HALF-BLOOD WOOLS	
CLASS X 52	
a-Graded Territory; strictly staple	
length.	
CLASS XI	
a-Graded Territory; average comb-	
ing length.	
b-Original Bag Territory; mostly	
half-blood may include some three-	
eighths or some fine.	
c—Graded Territory Clothing.	
THREE-EIGHTHS BLOOD WOOLS	
CLASS XII 48	
a—Graded Territory.	
QUARTER BLOOD WOOLS	
CLASS XIII 44	
a—Graded Territory.	
LOW QUARTER BLOOD	
CLASS XIV	
Common and Braid.	
MOHAIR Texas—Kid Hair	
Texas—Adult Hair	
All Other States—Rid 29 All Other States—Adult 19	
Where wools are appraised at points	•

Where wools are appraised at points outside of Boston, the freight charged to Boston will be deducted from the amount of the loan. Growers who so elect can have their wools delivered and warehoused at Boston and be eligible for loans in accordance with the full amount shown in the above schedule.

Any agency handling wool loans, or the Commodity Credit Corporation itself, when it has taken over the notes, may call for the sale of the wool at any time while the market quotations issued by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics of the United States Department of Agriculture show a price 75 cents per pound for clean, fine, French combing territory wool, or the fine clothing wools from the fleece states. Any note becomes payable upon discovery that any misrepresentation has been made, or that the borrower has filed a petition in bankruptcy, or has applied for a composition or extension of debts under the Bankruptcy Act.

A further arrangement has been made available by the Commodity Credit Čorporation for producers of small clips that cannot ordinarily be sold to advantage singly and the owners of which do not elect to operate through a cooperative. In obtaining loans on pooled wools, the representatives thereof must obtain authority from the producers to pledge the wool. The representatives will execute the note for the group. Banks, production credit associations and agricultural or livestock credit corporations may act as representatives of these wool pools.

A New Nevada Wool Growers Association

NEVADA wool growers again have a state association. At an all day's session in Winnemucca, March 30, a group of sheepmen, representative of all the wool-growing sections of the state, formed a new state organization by the adoption of a constitution and by-laws and the election of officers.

Mr. Gordon Griswold, prominent sheepman of Elko and an ardent advocate of a state sheepmen's organization, was unanimously voted to be the first president of the new association, with Ed. Settlemayer of Washoe County, as vice president. Mr. Jerry Sheehan has been chosen as the permanent secretary of the organization, with an office in the Gazette Building at Reno. Under the constitution, the executive committee is to consist of the president, vice president, and three other members to be named by the president.

The constitution also sets up the membership dues as one cent per head for each operator; half of the fee to go to the National Wool Growers Association and the other half for the maintenance of the state association.

The action taken at the Winnemucca meeting fills in the gap in the western wool growers' organization that was made about six years ago when the old Nevada Land and Live Stock Association went out of existence. Mr. Vernon Metcalf, it will be recalled, was secretary of that body for many years and also its representative on the Ex-

ecutive Committee of the National Association.

The object of the new Nevada Association is set forth in the constitution as follows:

The object and purpose of this association shall be in every proper way, to serve and promote the best interests of the wool growers and sheep industry of Nevada, representing them and presenting their views on all matters affecting the industry; to work in cooperation with the National Wool Growers Association, state and local associations, and all federal and local organizations, groups or bodies in problems of national and local importance, for the promotion and mutual protection of the best interests, benefits and welfare of all persons directly or indirectly engaged in the sheep industry.

Speakers at the organization meeting included, in addition to Mr. Griswold, Messrs. E. R. Marvel, manager of the W. T. Jenkins Company at Battle Mountain; Charles Osborn, cashier of the First National Bank of Nevada, Winnemucca branch; C. A. Melcher, ranch manager of the Allied Land and Livestock Company; Joe Hansen, Elko wool grower, and Ed Waltz, Gerlach cattle and sheep grower.

President Griswold has announced that plans are being made for a fall meeting, after the organization is perfected, at which time the date and site of the regular annual convention will be selected.

California Lamb Contracts

A BOUT 100,000 lambs had been contracted in California up to March 26, according to the estimates of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. This compares with a total of 300,000 under contract at the same date in 1937.

Contracts for March delivery were in the range of \$9 to \$9.50, but for April and later deliveries, the contract figures are between \$7.50 and \$8.50 per hundredweight.

The out-of-state movement is generally two weeks behind last year's. Shipments to the Midwest and North up to April 9 totaled 70 single decks, or 10,054 head, compared to 118 singles, or 16,984 head at that date last year.

THE FOREST SERVICE

and Reorganization

Extracts from the Senate Debate on the Amendment to Exempt the Forest Service from Transfer under the Reorganization Bill

THE attempt in the Senate to have the Forest Service exempted from the provisions of the reorganization bill, as embodied in Senator Pittman's amendment, was defeated on March 22 by a vote of 50 to 30. Thirteen Senators did not vote. Eight western Senators, Messrs. Borah of Idaho, Chavez and Hatch of New Mexico, Johnson of California, McNary of Oregan, Johnson of Colorado, Pittman of Nevada and Wheeler of Montana, voted for the amendment, while among those not voting on the measure were Senators Bone of Washington and King of Utah, who were detained in committee meetings: Senator Thomas of Utah, at a White House conference, and Senator McCarran of Nevada, who was in Nevada on official business. It is understood that the two Utah Senators and Mr. McCarran, if present, would have voted for the amendment. All other western Senators cast their votes against the amendment.

The vote on the Pittman amendment must not be construed to mean that the Senators, especially those from the western forestry states, not supporting the amendment, are in favor of the transfer of the Forest Service from the Department of Agriculture to the Department of the Interior or to any other department. Their position, it was very evident from the record of the debate, was based on a very strong assurance from "high authority" that there would be no shifting of the Forest Service. While no concrete facts, such as time, place or source of the assurance, were given, it may be inferred from the Senate debate that in order to keep the door closed against attempts to exempt specific bureaus from the provisions of the bill, and thus delay action on the measure, a number of western Senators had received a guarantee satisfactory to them that the Forest Service would remain with the Department of Agriculture, no matter what form the bill might take in its movement through Congress.

Such assurances may or may not have emanated from the Secretary of Agriculture, but it must be conceded that his statement in support of the organization bill buttressed their foundation very firmly. Secretary Wallace's statement was placed in the record by Senator Pope of Idaho on March 1. The following quotation is from the Congressional Record of that date:

MR. POPE (Idaho). Mr. President, * * * I desire to place in the Record, as part of my remarks, a statement issued by the Secretary of Agriculture on February 16, 1938, with reference to the Senate reorganization bill. I wish first to read one paragraph of that statement, and then to ask a question of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. Byrnes). In the statement issued by the Secretary of Agriculture on February 16, he said:

"Under the bill as reported to the Senate there is no implication requiring or inducing any further consideration of the transfer of any agricultural function from the Department of Agriculture to any other department. In the term 'agricultural' I would include among others the functions of the Forest Service, the Bureau of Biological Survey, and the Soil Conservation Service."

The question I desire to ask the Senator from South Carolina is whether he agrees with the statement of the Secretary of Agriculture that there is no implication in the reorganization bill relating to the transfer of the Forest Service to any other department?

MR. BYRNES (South Carolina). Mr. President, the statement of the Secretary of Agriculture is exactly correct. There is not any such implication; no one can read any implication into the provisions of the bill and it was not intended that there should be any such implication. One reason that prompted the Senator from South Carolina, on his own motion, to move to strike out that section was the argument that the presence in the bill of the provision for the establishment of a Department of Con-

servation did give rise to an implication, and, because those who held the view that there should be no such implication convinced me of the righteousness of their position in that regard, at the last meeting of the committee, I moved to strike it out of the bill, and it was unanimously stricken out. There is not any question of the accuracy of the statement of the Secretary of Agriculture.

MR. POPE. To those who are interested in the opinion of the Secretary of Agriculture with reference to the reorganization bill, I desire to read just one more sentence from the Secretary's statement:

"The governmental reorganization bill as it stands in S.3331, as reported, is, in my opinion, a long step forward toward making democracy an efficient agency for the general welfare. I hope that all those who have been especially concerned about agriculture and conservation in governmental reorganization will give it their wholehearted and vigorous support."

I read that for the reason that many of the western states are tremendously interested in this question. If I thought there was any implication or any likelihood at all of any such transfer of the Forestry Service, I would not be able to support the bill. I am convinced, in my own mind, and satisfied that this bill does not carry any such implication, and, as the Secretary states, there is no danger of any such transfer.

MR. Byrd (Virginia). Mr. President, I should like to remind the Senator from Idaho of the fact that the President's committee has recommended that under the regrouping of departments the Forest Service and other conservation activities be put under the Department of the Interior or the Department of Conservation. Here is the language:

"To administer the public lands, parks, territories, and reservations, and enforce the conservation laws with regard to public lands and mineral and water resources, except as otherwise assigned."

This report has been endorsed by the President.

MR. POPE. I am entirely familiar with that report, and that is exactly why I am making the statement now. I have assurances that are entirely satisfactory to me

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that the statement of the Secretary of Agriculture is accurate and that whatever the report may have been and whatever the message of the President may have been with reference to it, the present situation is that there is absolutely no danger. I have received assurances which are entirely satisfactory.

MR. Byrd. Mr. President, will the Senator take the Senate into his confidence and tell us where those assurances have come

rom?

MR. POPE. I am not at all sure that I am justified in doing so. I have talked with the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary has given me assurances from the very highest sources that we are entirely safe.

MR. BYRD. Under the provisions of the bill the President has the right, of course, to make the transfer and he endorsed the report that recommended a transfer.

MR. BYRNES. Mr. President, regardless of any report of the President's committee, I moved to strike that section from the bill because of the implication in it. The committee struck it from the bill because there was an implication in it, in order that there should be no implication by this bill of any congressional intent in any way as affecting that subject.

Mr. Pope. That is my understanding.

MR. BURKE (Nebraska). Mr. President, does the Senator from Idaho have any doubt that the present head of the Interior Department was very greatly interested in taking over the Forest Service of the Department of Agriculture?

MR. POPE. I cannot answer the Senator's question. I have understood that he

was interested in the matter.

MR. BURKE. The Senator is not able to give us any information as to when the present head of the Department of the Interior abandoned that purpose and intent, if he ever had it?

MR. POPE. I do not know whether he ever had it or not; I heard that he was interested; but I will say to the Senator that I am entirely satisfied—and if I were not, I would discuss it at some length—I am convinced that there is no danger whatever of any such transfer.

MR. BURKE. I have no doubt the Senator from Idaho is very determined to keep the Forestry Service where it is?

MR. POPE. Yes, sir.

MR. BURKE. I have no doubt of that

Mr. CLARK (Missouri). Mr. President, will the Senator yield?

Mr. Pope. I yield.

MR. CLARK. Is the Senator from Idaho aware that the official lobbyist for the Interior Department designated by the Secretary of the Interior to appear before congressional committees made the flat statement at the last session of Congress before the House Committee on Public Lands that it was the intention, indeed, that it was almost an accomplished fact, that the For-

est Service should be transferred from the Agricultural Department to the Department of the Interior?

Mr. Pope. I do not know anything about the official lobbyist of that department or any other, but the assurances given me satisfied me in regard to the matter.

The Pittman Amendment

While not entirely discounting the strength of the assurances received by some members of the Senate, Senator Pittman of Nevada was fearful, according to the record, that even though the Forest Service as a bureau remained in the Department of Agriculture, its grazing division might be consolidated with that of the Department of the Interior and to guard against such procedure, introduced on March 21 an amendment to exempt the Forest Service. This amendment, as state above, was rejected.

On April 7, friends of the Forest Service in the House, rather unfortunately it seems, again secured a vote on a motion to exempt the Forest Service from the President's power to transfer bureaus. The motion was lost by a vote of 109 to 63. However, the recommitment of the bill to the special committee on reorganization by the House in a vote of 204 to 196, on April 8, is regarded as the death knell of the entire measure, and that being the case, fears over the transfer of the Forest Service may be cast aside for the present at least

The following extracts from the debate on the Pittman amendment indicate the position taken by some of the western Senators:

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill is still before the Senate and open to further amendment.

Mr. PITTMAN. Mr. President, I send to the desk an amendment which I ask to have stated.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will state the amendment offered by the Senator from Nevada.

THE CHIEF CLERK. On page 4, line 12, after the word "act," it is proposed to substitute a semicolon for the period and to insert immediately thereafter the following:

"or to abolish or transfer the Forest Service from the Department of Agriculture to any other executive department or to abolish or transfer to any other agency or department any of the functions exercised by the Forest Service."

MR. PITTMAN. Mr. President, the amendment which I have offered comes under the group of exceptions which commences on page 3, in line 12, with the words:

"Nothing in subsection (a) shall be construed to authorize the Presidenc—"

Then there are several exceptions. There are exemptions in favor of the Federal Reserve System, the General Auditing Office, the Engineer Corps of the Army, and the Mississippi River Commission. I had occasion to discuss this question on last Wednesday. Therefore I do not propose to go into any long discussion of it at this time.

I do not know whether or not the President has in mind the transfer of the Forest Service from the Department of Agriculture. I am inclined to believe that he does not have any intention to transfer the Forest Service from the Department of Agriculture. However, I believe that at the present time he feels that grazing should be in charge of one department. I thoroughly concur in that view. It is impracticable to have the summer grazing area, which is in the high mountains, in charge of the Agricultural Department and to have the land in the valleys, which are the wintergrazing areas, in charge of another department. The question is, Which department should have control over grazing?

I have already stated that during a period of nearly 50 years the Forest Service has perfected the administration of grazing on the forest reserves in such a way that aid is lent to the raising of livestock without injury to the forest reserves.

On the other hand, the forests can be so grazed as to destroy the forest growth on the reserves. Before the establishment of control over the forest reserves tremendous areas were destroyed by overgrazing. For ten years after the Forest Service was established there was a constant battle between those in charge of the forest reserves and the stock raisers of the West. Those difficulties have been settled. The stock raisers are just as anxious as is the federal government to preserve the forest reserves and the forests on the forest reserves. The stock raisers are in perfect harmony with the control by the Forest Service. It would be a calamity to the government and to the stock-raising industry if the organization which has been perfected were disrupted by the transfer of the grazing functions to another department of the government. * *

I say to the Senate that there is danger that, while the President of the United States may feel, as I feel, that grazing should be controlled by one department, he may also feel that because the Secretary of the Interior has charge of grazing on the public lands, constituting an area four times as great as that embraced in the forest reserves, therefore he should have jurisdiction of the the other one fourth. But let us remember

that the grazing on the forest reserves is ten times more valuable to the stockmen than is the grazing on the public lands in the valleys. * * *

I do not think that this is of any less importance than is the Board of Engineers of the Army or the Mississippi River Commission. I think, as a matter of fact, it is of more importance to preserve this organization than it is to preserve the Board of Engineers, which has charge of all rivers and harbors, or the Mississippi River Commission; but, be that as it may, the proponents of this bill have recognized that the functions of those boards should not be disturbed. * * *

MR. BORAH. Mr. President, I earnestly urge the favorable consideration of this amendment. I regret to have to deal with this matter separately, but it is of such moment that I move that objection. Since the debate opened some days ago, I have had the most conclusive reasons, from my viewpoint, to believe that the urge for the transfer of the Forest Service to the Interior Department will continue. The movement is organized and it is determined. In addition to organization and determination, there is a belief in very high places that such a transfer ought to be made. As a Senator, I have no statement or assurance as against that constant urge on the part of this organized movement that the action proposed will not be taken. A statement has been made here to the effect that there have been assurances from certain sources, but we know not whence they come nor who gave them or whether those giving them have done so in such a way that, if we could know the language used, the assurances would be satisfactory to anyone who is deeply interested in this question.

This is a matter of very great concern to the entire West, and not only to the West but to all who are interested in the Forest Service. I cannot understand why if it be true, as intimated, that there is no intention of transferring the Forest Service, a prohibitory provision should not be written into the law.

What can a member of the Senate say to his constituents? All he can say is that somebody said that somebody, we do not know who, said that he did not think it was going to be done, or that it was not going to be done. A town council would not legislate on such a basis; a political caucus would not act in such a manner. yet we are proposing to turn over to the mercy of the misunderstanding of words or to the mercy of the misconstruction of words, or possibly to no words the vast interests of the West in this great subject.

MR. Adams (Colorado). As the chairman of the committee, I know there are members of the committee, such as both Senators from Nevada, and especially the senior Senator from that state, who are very much opposed to the measure, and the senior Senator from Nevada, whose

amendment is now pending before us, probably would not wish to be held responsible for reporting favorably something of which he disapproved.

Personally, I have the feeling about this whole matter that I have come to have about the bill, that it is much ado about nothing. I do not think that the adoption or failure to adopt the amendment means anything. I have about come to the conclusion that with the limitations and one thing and another that have been put on the reorganization bill, those who are basing great hopes upon it as to accomplishment are going to be very grievously disappointed.

I notice that those who are its ardent advocates today pointed out, when argument was made as to saving money under its operations, that no saving of money would be made. I know that the President in his budget message said that no great saving would be made. Personally I am not very greatly concerned over the matter of shifting of agencies about and changing their names. * * *

As to the particular matter now before us, I have no great concern, except to say that I think it is at least not the height of wisdom to have one portion of the public domain upon which a man's cow or steer grazes in the winter, administered by one bureau, and the area upon which it grazes in another season administered by another bureau. I do not know how many bureaus or departments have charge of the various federal land holdings. * * *

We have seen evidence of the efficiency of both the departments which are involved in this question. A great deal of sentiment has been aroused in my state and other states, and the impression has been conveyed that a change either way means a destruction of the service. I have been unable to see it. If the grazing service now in the Department of the Interior were transferred to the Agriculture Department, what would occur would be merely the transfer of a unit. The same individuals would carry on the work and the same work would be done. If the Forest Service were transferred to the Interior Department, it would be bodily transferred. The same policies and the same personnel would follow the transfer of the functions. I have not experienced a very great rise in temperature over this matter. I am inclined to vote against the amendment for the reason that I feel that if we lay down a principle of exceptions in the bill, perhaps it would be obligatory upon us to go the rest of the way and exempt many other agencies, thereby destroying the efficiency of the reorganization bill.

Mr. Schwellenbach (Washington). Mr. President, I desire to speak for a few minutes on the pending amendment.

I do not believe there is any state where the problem of the proper conduct of the Forest Service is of greater importance than in the State of Washington. I do not think any member of this body is more interested than I am in seeing that the Forest Service is conducted through the medium of and under the Department of Agriculture. I desire to take advantage of this opportunity to state the reasons why I intend to vote against the amendment proposed by the Senator from Nevada (Mr. Pittman).

I think anyone can foresee the situation with which we shall be confronted if this amendment is adopted, and if the other amendments coming up for consideration receive favorable action in the Senate. On last Friday the Senate determined that the work of reorganization, consolidation, and transfer should be done by the President of

the United States.

Sixteen bureaus and agencies are involved in 16 amendments which are now before the Senate, including this particular amendment. If they are all exempted, the task of reorganization will not be performed by the President, but will necessarily be performed by the Congress itself.

As I pointed out a few minutes ago, in order to be fair with the departments and agencies, the Congress will be required not merely to give the sort of consideration which we are asked to give so far as this particular amendment is concerned, but it must also provide for hearings at which representatives of each of the bureaus and departments affected may appear.

MR. HATCH (New Mexico). Mr. President, will the Senator yield?

Mr. Schwellenbach. I yield.

MR. HATCH. There seems to be a general understanding that the Forest Service shall not be consolidated or transferred. Am I correct?

Mr. Schwellenbach. That is the understanding.

MR. HATCH. Is there any such understanding relative to the other 15 or 16 bureaus to which the Senator has referred?

MR. SCHWELLENBACH. I know of no such understanding in reference to any other agency, department, or bureau. I have such an understanding with respect to the Forest Service. I will say that personally I have received no assurances with reference to that understanding, but that I have great confidence in the members of this body who state that they are satisfied that the Forest Service will not be transferred.

I point out to the Senator that those who favor the retention of the Forest Service in the Department of Agriculture may not be doing a service to that bureau by presenting this matter to the Senate for a vote. We must realize that all the departments and agencies must necessarily be left to the President to be passed upon. If the Senate goes through the 16 bureaus or agencies involved in the 16 amendments, one by one, and says, "No; we do not want them exempted," there may be some who will contend that the Senate already has decided against the retention of these particular bureaus and agencies in the de-

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public mes as eserves, of the member partment of government where they now exist, or has decided against the retention of their present status as separate, independent agencies.

MR. HATCH. In view of the statement just made by the Senator, am I right in construing his thought to be that if this particular amendment should be voted down, others would have the right to assume that it is the wish of the Senate that the Forest Service be transferred?

MR. SCHWELLENBACH. There is the possibility of such an argument being made. In the light of the statements which have been made, I do not think a logical argument could be made to that effect; but I can see that such an argument might be presented by those who favor the transfer to some other agency of government.

MR. O'MAHONEY (Wyoming). Mr. President, the Senator from Washington does not mean to indicate, does he, by his opposition to the amendment of the Senator from Nevada that he desires to record himself as in favor of the transfer of the Forest Service to another department?

MR. SCHWELLENBACH. I think I made it plain at the outset of my remarks that I certainly am opposed to the transfer of the Forest Service from the Department of Agriculture to any other department, and that no one here is more opposed to it than I am, because of the conditions in the state which I in part represent.

MR. O'MAHONEY. So that the action of those of us who intend to vote against the amendment of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. Pittman) ought not to be construed as favoring the transfer of this bureau or any other bureau?

MR. SCHWELLENBACH. I think I have made that plain.

MR. SCHWELLENBACH. Mr. President, I desire to conclude by again calling to the attention of the Senate a statement made by the Secretary of Agriculture. Certainly there is no one in the country who is more interested in the Department of Agriculture, and the preservation within the department of the proper functions of agriculture, than is the Secretary of Agriculture. Raising a crop of forests is just as much raising an agricultural crop as raising a crop of corn or wheat or anything else. It takes a longer period of time than it takes to raise other kinds of crops. When the Secretary of Agriculture, interested as he is in the maintenance within his department of the proper agricultural functions, comes out unqualifiedly and endorses this bill, raises no question about the Forest Service, and does not ask the Congress to exempt it, I think those of us who are interested in the problems of agriculture and in the problems of forestry may rely upon the opinion and the judgment of the Secretary of Agriculture.

Some people still think that wool is scratchy and hard to care for. Such is not the case. Wool may be hard or soft—depending on its degree of fineness. Just touch a few modern soft wools and you'll never again think that all wools are scratchy. Wool is easy to care for. Anything of value needs some care. The many good qualities of wool reduce the amount of care needed, so that it is really easy to care for. Good wool fabrics clean easily and safely.

American Corriedale Association to Accept Certificates from National Association

THE Board of Directors of the American Corriedale Association, at a recent meeting, definitely prescribed the conditions under which it will accept certificates of registration issued by the National Corriedale Association, according to word sent the Wool Grower on March 11 by Herbert T. Blood, president of the American Corriedale Association. Mr. Blood's statement is as follows:

The Board of Directors of the American Corriedale Association realized that the confusion as to their ability to accept certificates of registration of the National Corriedale Association was working a hardship on some breeders, and consequently took definite action in this matter at a recent meeting. This action is quoted in full:

"The American Corriedale Association will accept registry certificates from the National Corriedale Association when presented by a member of the American Corriedale Association, and subject to the approval of the Board of Directors of the American Corriedale Association. This bylaw is further clarified by the following:

"The American Corriedale Association cannot adopt a more lenient attitude toward certificates of the National Association presented for American registration until a committee from the American Association is accorded the privilege of inspecting the records of the National Association and is assured that such records include a progeny record and evidence that all sheep recorded trace in an unbroken line to Australian or New Zealand importations properly accompanied by a vendor's statement certified to by the secretary of these foreign associations."

Inter-Mountain Junior Fat Stock Show

THE Second Annual Inter-Mountain Junior Fat Stock Show is to be held at the Salt Lake Union Stockyards, North Salt Lake, Utah, June 7-9, 1938. This show is held for the Future Farmers and 4-H Club members of the intermountain region to enable them to culminate their efforts of the year and gain much of educational value through the wide competition they will meet. Entries close May 14.

In the sheep division for each of the two groups, there will be awards for Hampshire, Suffolk, Southdown and Rambouillet fat lambs, said lambs to weigh not less than 60 pounds nor more than 90 pounds. The sire of the lamb entry is to determine the breed class in which it will be exhibited.

The premiums will be paid according to the number of individual entries. With entries of 25 or more in an individual class, ten awards will be made, ranging from \$6 down to \$1; with entries of 16 to 25 head, eight cash prizes between \$6 and \$1 will be given; with 9 to 15 entries, six awards between \$6 and \$1 will be made; and five cash prizes between \$6 and \$2 are offered in classes where the entries do not exceed eight.

Premiums are also being given for the best pen of three fat lambs in each breed. There are five of these ranging from \$6 to \$2. Ribbons will be given for the Champion F.F.A. Fat Lamb and the Champion Pen of Three Fat Lambs, F.F.A. A medal will also be given for Showmanship with Lambs.

There are also several special awards offered, including the silver platter donated by the livestock department of the Hartford Fire Insurance Company for the exhibitor of the Grand Champion Lamb of the Show; \$50 in three prizes, first to receive \$25, second \$15 and third \$10, is being offered by the Producers Livestock Marketing Association to the Future Farmers of America Chapter which rates highest in quality and number of sheep shown. Three similar prizes are being offered to the 4-H County Exhibit by the Wasatch Livestock Loan Company.

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RANGE COUNTRY

WESTERN TEXAS

Most of the month was abnormally warm, the last week bringing the only really cold weather of the month. The middle of the month was without rain, but the first ten days, and the last week, were rainy, bringing more than usual moisture for the month as a whole. Conditions have consequently been rather favorable for livestock and ranges, at least for the present.

ARIZONA

A single warm week, one or two nearly normal weeks, and the last week abnormally cold, characterized the month's temperatures. A great deal of dry weather prevailed, though the early and closing weeks of stormy weather brought enough moisture to benefit ranges at all elevations. Livestock and range conditions are about as good as usual, with no losses of livestock reported.

NEW MEXICO

Fine weather prevailed for livestock and ranges this month, though a little more moisture at the lower elevations would have helped. Temperatures were near or somewhat above normal. and precipitation was near, or somewhat below normal, and more is needed, especially toward the south. Spring forage has done fairly well and livestock are in pretty good shape as a general rule.

Hope (Eddy County)

The weather has been unusually warm during March. Grass and weeds are coming along fine (March 20); should be the best sheep feed in years. With a little moisture added to the start the feed has, we will have an unusually good spring. Weather and feed have been ideal for lambing to date.

If the wool market does not improve, I believe a great many growers will avail themselves of the Commodity Credit Corporation loan.

We have not had so many coyotes. More growers are putting up wolf-proof fences, and more private trappers are being employed by the growers. I believe a state bounty would eliminate the coyote.

J. B. Runyan

Chama (Rio Arriba County)

We have an abundance of moisture. Feed conditions have been fair (March 30), though we have had to use concentrates as usual.

We lamb in May, and the prospects look good.

Wool in this section as a rule is consigned to the National Wool Marketing Corporation. I believe the wool loan will be beneficial to the growers. There are no cases of liquidation of outfits. Sheepmen in our section have been reducing their loans.

Coyotes are worse. Our section has been neglected. The report is the Biological Survey is short of funds.

Edward Sargent

San Mateo (Valencia County)

We had from two to three inches of snow about the 15th of March. We do not have much grass on the spring range (March 29). Lambing does not start until May 5. There were as many ewes bred to lamb this year as last.

I think growers will use the wool loan.

Our coyote trouble is about the same as in the past two years.

Lucio O. Sandoval Estate

Duran (Torrance County)

We have had a very mild March and the grass is coming pretty slowly

The notes on weather conditions, appearing under the names of the various states in Around the Range Country, are furnished by J. Cecil Alter of the U. S. Weather Bureau and based upon reports and publications for the month of March.

The Wool Grower welcomes and desires communications from interested readers in any part of the country for this department of the Wool Grower and also invites comment and opinions upon questions

ment and opinions upon questions relating to the sheep industry and of importance and significance to wool

(March 23). The sheep are in a fair condition.

We start our lambing in May. I guess conditions will be favorable by the time we start. About the same number of ewes were bred to lamb this year as in 1937.

I believe the wool loan will help some growers.

We have a few trappers on duty who keep coyotes down.

Isidoro Saiz

Blanco (San Juan County)

Snow was light this winter and the sheep came out in good shape. Rain has been heavy since the first of the month and lakes and water holes have plenty of water for the stock, but the feed is short (March 9). Most of the sheep are looking fine. Alfalfa hav in the stack is \$10.

About the same number of ewes were bred to lamb this year as last.

Our winter losses were not so heavy as last year's.

Government trappers have helped to cut down our covote trouble.

There have been just a few cases of liquidation of sheep outfits by creditors.

I don't know of any game that has been killed out of season by sheepherders on national forests.

Manuel Pacheco

COLORADO

Mild or seasonable weather prevailed, with plenty of moisture, at timely intervals on both sides of the main range. Soil moisture is lacking, only in the southeastern counties. Ranges are greening in most districts, and forage is considered good. Stormy weather was temporarily detrimental to livestock at the higher elevations, but generally they are doing well.

Denver (Denver County)

Weather conditions are good here, making feed fair (March 26). The spring range feed should also be good.

Only small flocks are lambing now, but they are making a good average under favorable conditions.

Nearly all of the 1937 wool in eastern Colorado has been consigned to the National Wool Marketing Corporation. I think the sheepmen will use the Commodity Corporation loan if the C.C.C. will get ready to function before the wool season is over.

Coyotes are less numerous than one year ago because the trappers and sheepmen have been using the "Humane Fur Getter."

R. P. Tulles

UTAH

Mild weather prevailed until the closing week when it turned appreciably colder. Rains and snows were heavier and more frequent than usual. Range forage that started early in the month was checked by the recent cold spell, but soil moisture is abundant, and conditions are very favorable. Livestock have held up in fair to good condition.

Teasdale (Wayne County)

Weather and feed conditions have been fair during March and are much better this year than they have been the last two years. Green feed has started well (March 25), if it does not freeze.

We do not start to lamb until May 21. We have plenty of snow on the

lambing grounds and prospects are good for lambing. There are about the same number of ewes to lamb this year as last.

The Commodity Credit Corporation loan was discussed in our last wool growers' meeting. All were in favor of it. No liquidation by creditors is taking place here.

Coyotes are more numerous than a year ago. We have one Biological Survey trapper who does very well, but too many W.P.A. trappers do not do good work.

Joe Hiskey

NEVADA

The fore part of the month was mild, but colder weather prevailed during the latter part, temperatures being especially low the last week. Precipitation was frequent, and moderately heavy, giving the soils of the range country a pretty good soaking. The lower country is mostly bare of snow, though the mountains carry deep snow. Cattle are in good shape, and lambing progressed with little difficulty due to weather conditions.

Winnemucca (Humboldt County)

The weather has been cold and stormy. Green feed had a good start, but was retarded due to cold, freezing nights. Feed is about the same as last year (March 26).

Lambing in this section starts about April 20 this year. Conditions at present do not seem favorable as it is too cold and stormy. About the same number of ewes were bred to lamb as in 1937.

I think the sheepmen will use the Credit Corporation loan.

We have had more coyotes because not many commercial trappers have been at work due to the decline in coyote pelts.

Allied Land & Livestock Co.

CALIFORNIA

Temperatures were below normal over the northern portion most of the month, but the southern part was most-

ly warm. The middle and northern portions also had plenty of precipitation, though the southern portion had less. Grasses, grains, and meadows have made a good growth in most middle and northern sections. Livestock are making satisfactory gains.

Napa (Napa County)

Conditions are only fair. We have had too much rain and no sunshine (March 28). Feed on the spring range is good, with prospects of being better.

Our percentage of lambs saved per 100 ewes is a little better than last year. Conditions for early lambing were very favorable. There were about the same number of ewes bred to lamb this year as last.

The growers in this district will not be taking advantage of the wool loan as most bands are small.

Our coyote trouble is about as usual. The Biological Survey work has been very unsatisfactory in this district, due to poor supervision. On my ranch and the two joining it there have been twelve coyotes caught the past year. The Biological Survey caught one. I caught four myself. My neighbors caught the rest. This county turns over \$2500 a year to the Biological Survey, and its sheep population is less than 25,000.

E. L. Thompson

Cloverdale (Sonoma County)

We have had too much rain since March 1, although conditions generally have been better than the last two or three years. Feed on the spring range is fair (March 26).

We are all through lambing, and have three times as many lambs saved per 100 ewes as in 1937. Early lambing conditions were good, but later conditions were bad.

There are not very many cases of liquidation of outfits by creditors in this section.

We are successful here doing our own trapping of coyotes.

Elliott Truitt

(Continued on page 45)



Mr. McWhorter (fifth from right end) and his lambing crew. In the background, sheep at feeders.

LAMBING PERCENTAGES In the State of Washington

By V. O. WcWhorter, Yakima, Washington

THE lambing percentages in the State of Washington in this talk are based on the number of lambs to ewes turned out from a lambing camp. In order to give you an adequate picture of how this high average is made in our state, I shall sketch a background of the geographical layout. For Nature favors us with an ideal drainage basin of which the Great Columbia is the main outlet as it gathers up the Yakima, Snake, and Walla Walla rivers.

This basin is a vast area of country from 600 to 3400 feet in elevation, producing wheat in the world-renowned Palouse country, fruit and every known irrigated crop in the equally famous Yakima Valley, and at its southern tip contacting the naturally lush valley of the Walla Walla, but containing also great expanses of desert land and seasonal grass ranges.

The Cascades to the west, the Coleville Mountains to the north, the foothills of the Rockies to the east, the Blue Mountains of the southeast encircle and protect the land. Although

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the winters are usually mild, occasional severe cold is often swept away in less than ten hours with the blowing of the unpredictable Chinook—a warm wind from the Pacific, coming up the Columbia through the gap in the Horse Heaven Plateau.

The type of country and varied elevations provide five seasons for sheep feeding. The lower ranges produce grass by the middle of March, followed by bunch grass sufficient for forage for sheep until the middle of April. The sandy areas at low elevation have weeds and different forms of temporary forage on which lambs thrive until June 1. The foothills and forest ranges supply natural grass and weeds throughout the summer. Mountain areas on three sides of the basin are close enough to be reached by trailing the sheep into them, but the Rocky

Mountain forests of Idaho and Montana must be reached by rail transportation.

Grain fields and pastures in the irrigated regions of Washington furnish green feed for breeding flocks in the fall, while the spring ranges have matured bunch grass and frequently green grass for winter feeding. Both dry and irrigated land produce grain, hay, pea and root crops easily accessible for winter sheep feed and for shed-lambing time.

The topography, the favorable climate and the diversified cultivation combine to make possible the production of fat lambs direct from the range to the market. As a result of this combination, most of the Washington sheepmen sell all their lambs on the late summer and early fall markets, and replace their breeding flock needs by purchasing Lincoln and Rambouillet crossbreds from adjacent states in the autumn.

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In the night corral.

ground, to produce the high percentages which go to market from these ranges. Because I am more informed, naturally, about our own setup than that of any other sheepman in the Yakima Valley, I shall describe it to illustrate the subject. Many other companies have sheep producing lambs of excellent quality in equal or greater numbers.

Beginning at the time in the fall after the lambs have been sold and the flocks returned to Washington, I shall discuss the pasture breeding and the use of winter ranges, describe the lambing camp and its equipment, the preparations for feeding, the organization of the crews of men, and the handling of the ewes at the lambing camp until they are turned out on the range with their lambs.

About the twentieth of September, the unit of six thousand ewes is put into pastures of timothy, clover, alfalfa, and grain which are purchased from farmers in Kittittas, Yakima and Benton counties. The sheep are divided into bands of 1200 to 1500, with which is used the ratio of one to one and one-quarter bucks per hundred ewes, bred to lamb February 15. The bucks are enclosed in corrals in the day time and fed, then turned into the bands at night. For 30 or 45 days, depending on favorable weather, the sheep are

kept on the pastures, usually until the middle of November, often until the first of December, when the bucks are segregated and the ewes are trailed to the winter range, well fattened and in good condition. Again the ewes are divided into four bands, sorted according to age and condition.

When they are sorted again in January on the basis of condition and divided into five bands, the ewes are tagged for lambing. Tagging is an occupational expression for shearing the dirty wool from the ewe's rump and about the udder, a process which facilitates the birth of the lambs, known as the "drop," and leaves a cleaner fleece for shearing in May. From the first of January until February fifteenth when the bands are brought into the lambing shed, they are fed whole peas, onehalf to a pound per head, with additional alfalfa hay in severe winters. The peas are high in protein, and make a good balanced ration with the high carbohydrate in the range feed of mature bunch grass.

Such is the procedure for preparing the ewes for lambing. While the sheep are on the range the lambing camp is put in order. A large corral, adjacent to the permanent sheds, is made with wooden panels 16 feet long by 3 feet high, which will hold 4500 ewes. A

small section is used for the night corral for the "drop band," as it is termed. At the noon feeding time all the sheep are held in it until hay and grain are put into the feed racks in the outer corral. Sheds surround part of the corral, and are made to open to the south sun by rolling up canvas. They contain 600 individual pens four feet square, reached by alley ways from the corral, and are equipped with stoves for use in cold weather. Pens to accommodate larger groups of ewes and lambs, connected by alleys through which ewes are driven, are set up with the same type of panel outside the permanent sheds, and equipped with feed troughs and water tubs. Since the blizzard of 1936, small corner shelters have been added for the lambs

Hay and water wagons, tubs and miscellaneous equipment are checked over; pack and camp equipment for the range is repaired or replaced; groceries and food supplies are stored in a concrete cellar. The bunkhouse, with a shower room, and the cook house are kept cleaned and in order through routine work of permanent help. Early in the fall, chopped hay is delivered to the camp site and stacked, and the grain supply hauled in and stored. Before the sheep come in, arrangements are made for delivery as needed of root crops, potatoes, carrots, and rutabagas, if cheap.

The crew of experienced men who have been with the outfit before, and are able and willing to do any duty assigned, are hired, and ready to go to work. They are given typed instructions, each man following in detail his specific work at a given time to avoid duplication and uncertainty. By this method the crew can lamb 6,000 ewes in 30 days.

When the ewes are brought into the lambing camp, they are put through a chute, at which stands an experienced man who determines by observation the animals ready to lamb first. Of the 6,000, some 2,000 are turned back. This smaller band is sent to a temporary camp on the range three miles away

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with three men in charge. Ewes that lamb are sent into the main camp by truck, but the number is low—not more than twenty in 24 hours. Half of the smaller band is brought back to the corral in a week; the whole band in two weeks, when the peak of lambing the larger group is past. This procedure avoids overcrowding and confusion at the main camp; although 6,000 ewes are lambed at one time, the "drop band" is never larger than 4,500.

The larger unit of 4,000 is divided into two groups; ewes likely to bear twin lambs are fed additional grain. The rush is on for at least two weeks at the rate of a new lamb every five minutes. During this time the band is never without men, day or night, known as the "drop-pickers," who place the new born lambs and their mothers in the individual pens. No other men do this work so the "droppickers" know the history of every case in their shift. A uniform system of marking the ewes is a guide to their condition. For instance, the ewe with scant milk supply is chalk-marked on the shoulder, the one with enough milk to care for an extra lamb is marked on the hip, the one with a defective udder has a stripe down the back; and the foster-mother has a mark across the nose. This "speciality" crew, at the end of their shift, have every lamb fed and adjusted to its mother, and every case needing special care sent to the detaining shed.

The second day a new crew brands the ewe and lamb alike, that is, the same number on shoulder or sides, the singles in one color, the twins in another. A hog ring is put into the right ear of any sheep to be culled before another season. All normal animals are moved from the sheds into pens containing eight ewes with single lambs, or four ewes with twin lambs. The ewes are driven down alley ways, the lambs carried by a pick-up truck, with six pens for eight lambs each. Twentyfour hours later all the sheep doing well are moved into larger pens and combined into groups of sixteen ewes with single lambs or eight ewes with twin lambs. Daily they are grouped into larger units until a maximum of 150 is reached for the singles. The twins are watched closely and not grouped as fast as the other lambs in order to determine whether the ewe can nourish two lambs. In the meantime all those sheep with any trouble are put in a special shed in charge of an experienced man whose duty is to send every ewe out with a lamb if she can nourish it. Any ewe can be made to "mother" any lamb if her milk flow can be maintained.

As a final preparation for turning out the enlarged bands on the range, all the ewes and lambs in a band are branded identically, no two bands are alike. The male lambs are castrated, and all lambs have their tails cut off with an Ellenwood docking iron, a superior type of iron.

When lambing is completed, all dry ewes not marked for culling are identified by a hog ring under the right ear. Should any of these ewes show up dry any following years, they are culled from the flock. Our lead sheep are all ewes. We have discarded wethers for this purpose.

Because I consider the feeding at lambing time an important factor in lamb production, I shall discuss it in detail; the kinds of feed and the methods of feeding.

The use of chopped hay effects a saving in several ways. There is no waste through moisture which would



Placing feed in the racks. Chopped hay and grain are fed in the same racks.

The feed lot is harrowed during wet weather.



Sheep entering feed lot. The partition in the background holds part of the band back while the sheep entering the corral first find their places at feeders.

accumulate in hay stacks, and chopped hay is bought by ton weight that is more accurate than stack measurement. It is more palatable, so less wasted in the feed racks, and can be hauled as far as 40 miles by trucks equipped to hold eight tons, thus extending the area from which it can be purchased at competitive prices. In addition to hay, the grain fed is oats.

Feeding ewes at the lambing camp is a specialized project. The sheep must be adjusted to the change of feed slowly when they are brought in from the range, given a limited amount of hav for two or three days and ample water. There are four water troughs in the large corral, supplied by pipe line from an underground concrete storage tank at the spring. By limiting the feed and suppling lots of water, there is no sickness, which I believe due to overfeeding of hay at the time sheep come into camp from the range. After this adjustment and before lambing, a ewe is fed all the hay it will eat and onehalf to three-fourths pound of oats daily but together in a feed rack.

Contrary to general practice, a ewe is not fed in the shed pens after lambing. If it lambs before 9 a.m. it is turned from the shed that day. If it lambs after 9 a.m. it is left all day and night without feed or water. This system has proved satisfactory; the crew gives all its time to the ewe and lamb, and there have been no detrimental results. The first day the sheep are moved from the shed, they have all the water they want and a limited amount of hay and grain. The second day out of the shed they have hay and grain, gradually increased to one pound of oats for a ewe with one lamb, two pounds for a ewe with twins. Ewes are fed potatoes, if potatoes are cheap and not likely to freeze. A gradual increase in amount to four pounds is a safe stimulation for milk production. With the use of potatoes, the alfalfa hay ration is decreased. All the pens are arranged so that wagons drive along outside, putting hay, grain, and roots directly into the feed racks without entering the pens. Trained dogs hold the sheep from the feed racks until the whole ration is in place.

It is important that ewes and lambs be kept in small bands at the time of the turn-out from camp. The first band has 600 ewes with single lambs. Within two weeks two bands are combined into one of 1200 ewes with lambs. The twins are put into smaller units of 400 ewes with twins until June 1 when forest ranges are opened. The final combination of 2,400 head in a band is made at that time.

Since the profit lies in numbers, the importance of raising fat twins is apparent. Constant supervision is necessary, for lambs grow fatter or they lose weight. No lamb stands still. His aim is to be fat for an early market and he needs help.

In summary, I repeat that these factors of adequate green feed, for Lincoln, Rambouillet crossbred ewes, from two to six years old, handled as I have outlined, give results of 140 to 150 per cent increase in the lambing camp; that continued care in the camp and at the turn-out, with a favorable range season and experienced herding bring to market 100 pounds of lamb for every ewe bred, with 80 per cent of the total, fat lambs. The high cost of operation in the State of Washington makes it imperative to market twin lambs to stay in the sheep business.

Farm and Other "Emergency" Laws

THE following statement is reprinted from the editorial columns of the New York Times of February 13, where it appeared under the title, "The Momentum of Control."

Government intervention, like a plant, an animal or an institution, passes through a series of definite stages and acquires a life and momentum of its own. A form of government control imposed in an emergency, and designed solely to meet that emergency, tends to bring into existence a set of vested interests and a general state of affairs which lead to demands for its indefinite continuance. We are now seeing illustrations of this in the case of farm legislation, of the relief program and of government spending.

The original AAA was adopted on the theory that there was a temporary surplus of a few leading crops, and that prices

could be raised by removing this surplus. Arguments against crop reduction as a permanent policy were ignored, because the new policy was to be only temporary. After it each farmer was to be his own judge of what and how much to plant and not to plant. But it is significant that no one any longer speaks of the farm program as either a temporary or an emergency program. The new farm bill apparently contemplates a permanent regimentation of farming. * * *

The relief program is another case in point. It is not merely that the federal government has now accepted permanent responsibilities toward the unemployed that few persons contemplated when the program began. What is more remarkable, the improvised form that relief took, hastily and under pressure, shows a tendency to become permanent. The arrangement adopted is obviously bad in many respects. It sets up a purely fictitious division be-tween "employables" and "unemployables." Under it the proportions of funds that go respectively to work relief and home relief. as well as the respective portions of the relief load carried by the federal, state and city governments, are arbitrary and haphazard. Yet the existing system tends to

Finally we come to the spending program. Deficit financing was never adopted deliberately at all. What happened was that with the coming of the depression tax revenues fell while expenditures continued. Relief needs called for further expenditures. But what began as a predicament now threatens to become a policy. The theory is being elaborated that a deficit is actually a very fine thing, because it "creates purchasing power" and acts to restore prosperity. We have previously pointed to some of the fallacies inherent in this theory. What is significant in the present connection is that the theory has been in large part created by the practice. To be able to vote for appropriations and subsidies for special groups without voting for increased taxes to pay those subsidies is, of course, a politician's paradise. The new doctrine is therefore not one difficult to popularize among politicians. Groups that are getting subsidies or that want existing subsidies increased also expound the doctrine in the effort to prove that the subsidy is good not only for them but for everybody.

Thus any government policy, sound or unsound, has a momentum of its own. It is not merely that government control, as has been repeatedly illustrated in the case of the farm program, inevitably spreads in ever-widening circles, because of the very unsettlements it creates and in turn tries to correct. But special groups quickly become accustomed to special privileges which they soon begin to treat as rights. It is because of this tendency that it is so necessary to scrutinize every legislative proposal closely at the beginning, however "temporary" its life is supposed to be.

FREIGHT RATES, TARIFF

and Other Matters

Discussed by S. W. McClure

Railroad Rates

LATE in 1937 the railroads of the United States asked the Interstate Commerce Commission to permit them to increase railroad rates 15 per cent. The Commission set the request for public hearings at which shippers were given the opportunity to protest the increase. About the time this all happened, the President of these United States issued a public statement to the effect that the railroads were entitled to the increase in rates. With this discouraging picture before them, the livestock and farm organizations put up a heroic fight to prevent the increase in their particular case.

The Commission has now rendered its decision under which it allows the railroads to increase livestock and agricultural rates by 5 per cent and other rates by 10 per cent. It is estimated that this increase will give the railroads an additional income of 270 million per year.

Undoubtedly some of the railroads were on the verge of bankruptcy and it seemed to the Commission that the increase was necessary, at least to meet the emergency. I cannot agree with this view. Here are some of the facts about the railroad situation:

We have several in the country now in the hands of receivers that cannot be saved by any 10 or 25 per cent increase in their rates. The trouble is not a matter of rates, but one of lack of tonnage and high expense of operation. High rates will injure rather than benefit them. What they need in some cases is abandonment; in others, a reduction of capital, taxes and labor costs, and in still other cases, absorption by stronger lines. On these weaker lines, labor must take a lower wage or go on relief. The shippers of America

cannot be burdened with high railroad rates over the entire country in order to protect a few delinquent roads that are simply a millstone to the entire railroad picture. Many of our railroads did not need an increase in rates and that was practically true of some of our western lines.

One evening before the election in 1932 I listened over the radio to an address in Salt Lake City delivered by Franklin D. Roosevelt, then a candidate for the presidency. He devoted that speech to the railroad problem and set forth his cure-all for the situation. After he had explained what was wrong with the railroads, he told of how he was going to handle them.

Let us examine what the administration has done about the railroads in the five years since 1932.

When this speech was made in the fall of 1932, fifty-five railroads were in the hands of receivers. Today the number held by receivers is 96, an increase of more than 60 per cent in five years. The increase in mileage in receivers' hands in five years is reported to be about 300 per cent. All of these are A. P. figures.

In 1933 railroad employees were given a 10 per cent increase in wages at the direction of the President. This was followed by an increase in rates to absorb the increased wages. In the fall of 1937 railroad labor was given an increase in wages and this increase has now been followed by an increase in rates. As this is written, railway executives in Washington have asked the railroad employees voluntarily to take a reduction in wages. But again the President announces that railroad wages should not be reduced. So that is that.

The present increase in railroad

rates brings some of the rates to a confiscatory figure. The new rate on a hundred pounds of wool from my station to Boston, all rail, will be about \$2.60 per hundred, or just 15 per cent of what I was offered for the wool. In addition to this, the price of many things I buy will be increased by the 10 per cent increase in rates. Ordinarily I might ship my wool by truck, but this is now prevented by the recent passage of a bill giving the government power to regulate trucks. I have not investigated the airplane rate on wool to Boston and that may be my salvation.

All of this just means that the farmers, stockmen, and producers of all kinds must pay the bill for all this damn nonsense that is going around Washington. Don't worry about what has happened to Austria—just feel corry for the United States.

Reciprocal Trade Agreements

The Constitution provides that the President may enter into treaties with foreign countries, providing two thirds of the Senate approve such treaties. In 1934 the Congress relinquished its constitutional duties and in violation thereof gave the President authority to make such treaties without their approval. Under this authority the President has now entered into sixteen reciprocal trade treaties and is now engaged in negotiating such a treaty with Great Britain. Under this grant of authority, the President may reduce duties as much as 50 per cent.

In the old days, it generally took from a few weeks to a few months to revise the tariff. This created a like period of uncertainty, but as the proposed rates were published in the proposed law and all parties at interest

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were given a hearing, the effect on business was not too bad. Now, however, these treaties are made in secret and the victim does not know his fate until his head falls at his feet. While formal hearings are granted, they are indeed formal and the treaty may have been agreed to in advance of the hearing.

From 1934, when the law was passed, to this day, the nation has been in constant turmoil over the tariff. Uncertainty, doubt and fear have been the lot of the business man, the farmer and the producer in every line. Instead of a few weeks of tariff revision, we now have had three solid years of it. This has been the most inhuman, cruel and distressing policy ever applied to American producers and taxpayers. No wonder the nation is now suffering from a serious depression: that business survives at all is a tribute to the former American spirit.

In addition to the actual enactment of these treaties, the nation is being fed bushels of propaganda to show their importance. As the treaties failed utterly to accomplish the end proclaimed, they now are held up as a necessary and vital move in the interest of world peace. Peace-what a mockery to connect these treaties with such a holy name. When these treaties first appeared, the world was fairly peaceful, but today, whether due to these treaties or from other causes, most of the world is drenched with blood. On our own continent, Cuba has had seven rulers in six years and is now held by the strong arm of a military dictator. Our first treaty was with Cuba. Brazil has overthrown its established government and taken on a dictator. Our third treaty was with Brazil. Nicaragua, one of our first treaty countries, has repudiated its treaty. On this continent, Colombia and Canada, of our treaty neighbors, remain on speaking terms. The Argentine is embittered against us and Mexico stands south of the Rio Grande with her thumb to her nose, confiscating the property of Americans invited to go there. In Europe and Asia, the situation is worse, if possible. Our silly silver policy nearly bankrupted China and helped to make her an easy prey to Japan. Against the best judgment of many great Americans, we recognized Russia and sold her war supplies in the hope she would lick Japan. Japan will never forget this.

Our foreign policy has been a jumble of errors that has kept the outside world on pins and needles and the nation at home distressed and helpless.

These reciprocal political agreements are the crowning error of a long program of constitutional violations.

The Tariff

So much misinformation is now being broadcast about the tariff that at the risk of repetition, I desire to explain certain features.

The fiscal year of our government expires June 30. For the year ending on that date in 1937, the latest year for which figures are available, the United States imported for its consumption \$2,506,706,000 worth of commodities from all countries. On these imports our government collected \$469,807,-000 in the form of a tariff. Of the total imports, \$1,640,943,000 worth of commodities came into this country absolutely free of all duty. In other words, of this vast cargo of imports, 621/2 per cent did not pay a penny of tariff and 371/2 per cent paid a tariff. This is under the Smoot-Hawley tariff law passed in 1930.

In other words, based on the total imports, the tariff amounted to 18 per cent of their value. But the value of these imports for tariff purposes is not the value you and I pay when we buy these goods. The ad valorem tariff on imported merchandise is based on the foreign wholesale price in the country from which the goods are exported. On clothing, the foreign wholesale price is approximately one-third the price at which the goods are retailed in this country. From this it can be seen that the tariff is very low and of little concern to the consumer. As would be expected, there are tremendous frauds in the tariff on our imports. As the tariff in most cases is based solely on the foreign wholesale price of the goods, it is only natural that importers undervalue their goods, which in turn reduces the tariff.

As a rule the tariff is highest on agricultural and livestock products and lowest on manufactured goods. The large number of free imports is partly accounted for by the fact that Congress endeavored to place on the free list most commodities used by farmers. Generally the tariff on manufactured commodities is on an ad valorem basis -that means on the percentage basis. For instance, the tariff on a vard of woolen cloth is 50 per cent of its foreign wholesale value. Say, the foreign value was \$1; the tariff would be 50 cents. On agricultural and livestock products nearly all tariffs are on a specific basis. That means that a given or fixed amount is collected per pound or bushel when imports are made.

In the fiscal year 1937 we exported \$283,881,000 worth of goods more than we imported. This amount is called the balance of trade. The balance in 1937 is extremely small and much less than in years previous to 1930.

The present United States tariff is very low compared with that of most important countries. On many important commodities our tariff is less than one-third that of some other countries.

Our foreign trade is relatively unimportant. It amounts itsually to about 5 per cent of our domestic trade. More than 60 per cent of the things we import can and could be produced at home. Their production here would absorb most of the articles we export.

Idealism Fails

The deplorable conditions existing throughout the world in spite of the "Good Neighbor Policy," is simply an evidence that idealism is a colossal failure as its practical application to human government is concerned.

During the world war the cry was raised, "Peace without victory!" And in the final settlement that is about what happened. While the Central Powers were defeated in a military

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t imsense, they were not defeated to an which extent that humbled them and brought their people one and all a full realizast on tion that the Allies were the master. The job was not completed. Ninety s and The per cent of the German people had not seen an Allied soldier; not a German partly home, or factory or city had been ngress destroyed; Berlin, the capital, never e list pulled down the flag. Idealists and rmers. pacificists from the United States held ctured basis the purse strings and dictated the peace basis. policy. The result, no one was whip-

war still lived and new ones were added.

Self-determination of peoples was the idealists' cry and some half dozen little puny governments were set up to become the prey of any nation that wanted them. Any two people who spoke the same language could have a government. A few hard-shelled standpatters insisted that the Allied troops should be marched through Berlin, that the palace of the Kaiser should be destroyed, that the Kaiser himself should be deported by the Allies and kept under their supervision.

ped and the hatreds that caused the

The result is that the world war must be fought again, just because practical men of affairs were pushed aside and theorists allowed to rule. It may be rather cruel to state that had the war been finished as it should have, the rule of demons in Europe would have been prevented, but such is the fact. Had the United States allowed the Allies to dictate the peace terms at the close of the war, sound government would today obtain in Europe.

S. W. McClure

Wool is unique among fibers because it is elastic. Clothes made of good wool are less apt to wrinkle when packed, and in traveling. Wool clothes usually regain their proper shape after being left on a hanger.

Even when wet, wool is strong. The wool fiber has the strength of metal wire. That is why wool "can take it." It withstands strain and hard wear.

Wool is the aristocrat of fibers. Its origin is lost in antiquity, but wool garments beautifully woven were worn in Babylonia as early as 4000 B.C.

Sheep Numbers, January 1, 1938

CMALLER numbers of horses, mules and cattle and larger numbers of sheep and hogs on farms, January 1, 1938, compared with numbers on January 1, 1937, are shown by the annual inventory estimates of livestock on farms made up by the Crop Reporting Board of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. The change from a year earlier was relatively small for all species, the decreases being 2.5 per cent for horses, 2.1 per cent for mules, and 0.8 per cent for cattle. The increases were 0.6 per cent for sheep, and 3.4 per cent for hogs. The number of milk cows, which is included in the total for all cattle, declined 0.4 per cent. When the numbers of all the species are converted to an animal unit basis, which allows for difference in size and feed requirements of the several species, the change was very small, amounting to a reduction of 0.5 per cent.

The number of cattle on farms January 1, 1938, was estimated at 65,-930,000 head, a reduction of 518,000 head, or 0.8 per cent from a year earlier. Changes in numbers during 1937 varied considerably among the various states, with numbers down in seventeen states, and unchanged, or up, in the others. Sharp reductions occurred in the states from Nebraska to Texas, and increases in most of the other north central states. The value per head on January 1, of \$36.64 was \$2.57 higher than a year earlier and the highest since January 1, 1931. The total value of \$2,415,690,000 was about \$152,000,000 larger than a year earlier, and largest since 1931.

The 24,902,000 head of milk cows (cows and heifers two years old and over kept for milk), on January 1, 1938, was 89,000 head, or about 0.4 per cent below a year earlier, and about 2,000,000 head below the record high number on January 1, 1934. The value

Sheep Numbers as of January 1, 1937 and 1938

	Stock Sheep			Sheep and Lambs on Feed	
State	1987	1988 (1)	% of 1937	1937	1938 ()1)
Iowa	1,216,000	1,216,000	100	340,000	480,000
Michigan		1,023,000	97	260,000	286,000
Minnesota		1,093,000	105	340,000	275,000
Missouri	1,258,000	1,321,000	105	115,000	138,000
Ohio	2,188,000	2,188,000	100	300,000	345,000
South Dakota	1,147,000	1,147,000	100	130,000	193,000
Other 30 Native States	7,344,000	7,413,000	100.9	1,408,000	1,789,000
Total Native States	15,249,000	15,401,000	100.9	2,893,000	3,506,000
(All Sheep and Lambs	18,142,000	18,907,000	104)		
Arizona	865,000	882,000	102	15,000	10,000
California	3,577,000	3,510,000	98	212,000	90,000
Colorado	1,737,000	1,720,000	99	1,030,000	1,195,000
Idaho	2,104,000	1,978,000	94	285,000	230,000
Montana	2,826,000	2,685,000	95	150,000	155,000
Nevada	826,000	785,000	95	20,000	7,000
New Mexico	2,411,000	2,315,000	96	66,000	70,000
Oregon	2,245,000	2,043,000	91	100,000	65,000
Texas		9,100,000	104	170,000	300,000
Utah	2,451,000	2,328,000	95	295,000	240,000
Washington	668,000	641,000	96	51,000	29,000
Wyoming	3,342,000	3,409,000	102	250,000	224,000
Total Western States	31,802,000	31,396,000	98.7	2,644,000	2,615,000
(All Sheep and Lambs		34,011,000	98.)		
Total United States	47,051,000	46,797,000	99.5	5,537,000	6,121,000
(All Sheep and Lambs		52,918,000	100.6)		

(1) Preliminary.

per head on January 1, of \$54.45, was \$4.06 higher than a year ago.

The number of hogs on January 1 was estimated at 44,418,000 head. This was 1,470,000 head, or 3.3 per cent larger than a year earlier, and the largest number since January 1, 1934, but the number was still much below that of any year in the 30-year period before 1935. Nearly all of the increase occurred in the north central (corn belt) states, with numbers little changed in other areas. The value per head of \$11.21 on January 1 was 68 cents lower than a year earlier and the total value of \$498,025,000 was about \$12,500,000 less.

The number of all sheep and lambs on January 1, 1938 was 52,918,000 head, which was 330,000 head larger than a year earlier. The number of stock sheep was smaller than a year ago, but the larger number of lambs on feed brought the total above last year. The number of stock sheep was below a year earlier in nearly all of the important western sheep states, except Texas and Wyoming. The value per head, \$6.12, of all sheep and lambs, was ten cents higher than a year earlier, and the total value of \$323,746,000 was about \$7,400,000 larger.

Joint Review of Game Problem in Oregon

COKING to the intelligent sustained protection of the important big game resources of Grant County and other parts of eastern Oregon, a joint inspection trip will be made by interested public and private agencies the week of April 3 to 9, according to the U. S. Forest Service.

Members of the inspection party will include representatives of the State Game Commission, the U. S. Biological Survey, the U. S. Forest Service, stock growers' associations, Rod and Gun clubs, Wildlife Federation, Oregon State College, Extension Service, and private property owners. A joint meeting of the interested agencies will be held on April 8 at John Day, Oregon, according to the plan.

A competent biologist employed by the Forest Service has been directing an extended survey of the winter game ranges on and adjacent to the Malheur National Forest of Oregon, the Forest Service states. With the results of this survey available it is planned to review the game range situation on the ground and attempt to reach a constructive policy for insuring a continued and dependable supply of the picturesque game species, mule deer, at the same time coordinating game management with the important livestock industry of the state.

The Forest Service after a study of the game situation in and adjacent to the national forest extending over several years is anxious for a joint consideration and understanding of the problems and their constructive solution.

Rambouillet Rams Wanted by Indian Agency

THE United Pueblos Agency, whose headquarters are at Albuquerque, New Mexico, is in the market for 925 purebred Rambouillet range rams for the various Indian Pueblos under its supervision. Bids must be submitted before the first of May.

The specifications to be met by bidders on these rams are announced as follows:

Range Rambouillet Rams, not less than 12 months nor more than 20 months old. These rams must be uniform in type, with no body wrinkles, and with a body conformation indicating the ability to sire lambs of good mutton quality. These rams must have sound mouths, be in thrifty condition, and weigh a minimum of 135 pounds each on the delivery date.

Rams will not be considered unless the breeder can show evidence that they are the result of at least five generations' use of pure-bred Rambouillet rams.

The fleeces carried by these rams must be uniform, with reasonable evidence that a 12 months' growth of wool will be at least 21/4 inches long, with a clean wool yield of at least 5 pounds (14 pounds grease weight, with a 62 per cent shrink or 15 pounds grease weight with a 65 per cent shrink, for example). Under no circumstances will rams be accepted with a fleece shrinking in excess of 65 per cent.

The fleeces shall not grade coarser than commercial "one half blood," nor finer than "fine-medium."

Anyone interested in submitting bids on these rams should write to United Pueblos Agency, Albuquerque, New Mexico, for the proper form on which to make the bid.

Southdown Breeder Honored

THE second in a series of agricultural appreciation luncheons given by the Nashville (Tennessee) Chamber of Commerce late in 1937 honored Rufus Preston Hite, an outstanding Southdown breeder and former officer of the American Southdown Breeders Association. Prior to the event honoring Mr. Hite, a leading Tennessee paper made this statement about the veteran sheep breeder:

An award for distinguished service will be bestowed here this week upon a beloved veteran of Sumner County, Mr. R. P. Hite. He has contributed much to sheep breeding over a period of many years, and thereby has served to enrich the state. It is fitting, therefore, that he should be the honor guest of the Nashville Chamber of Commerce on Wednesday at a dinner which sheep breeders of the state and others interested in livestock development are invited to attend.

It was approximately a half century ago when Mr. Hite came to Sumner County from Ohio and entered upon his career as a scientific breeder of sheep. His first experiments were with Merinos, which, it developed were not adapted to this section, and thereafter he specialized on Southdowns, becoming not only a leader in the state but in the nation. In 1903 he imported sheep from England and five years later he brought 400 head in from Canada. He has sold approximately 4000 rams in Tennessee, it is estimated, thereby contributing greatly to a generally higher standard.

Because of his achievements, Mr. Hite has been honored with the presidency of both the American Southdown Association and the Tennessee Sheep Breeders Association, and despite his advancing age, continues to take an active interest in the affairs of these organizations.

In dollars and cents it is impossible to estimate Mr. Hite's contribution to Tennessee's sheep-growing industry. But, in the main, his has been a labor of love. The heartfelt words of appreciation which will be spoken here this week will be a true reflection of state-wide sentiment.

W. L. Henning

LAMB IMPORTS

Under Canadian Irade Agreement

SECRETARY Marshall testified on behalf of the sheep industry on April 7 before the Committee for Reciprocity Information in connection with negotiation of a further trade agreement with Canada following the submission of the Association's brief on March 12. The transcript of his testimony before the committee follows:

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Chairman Grady: Will you call the next

The Secretary: The next witness is Mr. F. R. Marshall, secretary of the National Wool Growers Association.

Statement of F. R. Marshall

(The witness was duly sworn by the Secretary.)

MR. MARSHALL: My name is F. R. Marshall, Salt Lake City, Utah, secretary of the National Wool Growers Association.

Mr. Chairman, the relationship of my organization to the industry and our representation is amply covered in the opening statement of my brief which you have had. I will not refer to it further.

I wish to say first that I am a lamb raiser myself and have had considerable contact with the market and the problems connected with lambs. I am going to make a few short statements supplementary to the brief, and supplementary only.

The list of articles set for consideration for possible concessions carries mutton and goat meat, on which the duty is now 5 cents, and lamb on which the duty is now 7 cents. As a matter of fact, both in this country and in the other countries which export sheep meat, the rate of production of mutton is of comparatively little consequence. In our own slaughter in this country in recent years the proportion of mutton in relation to lamb has been from 3 per cent to about 9 per cent.

The cash income in this country in 1935 from the slaughter of sheep and lambs was \$124,328,000. I understand that did not include goats, but the cash sales from goats are comparatively small.

Mr. Chairman, in the opening part of the official announcement of the present trade agreement now under discussion, I find this language: "It is the general policy of the United States in negotiating trade agreements with foreign countries to consider concessions only on the products of which the other country is the chief or an important source of our imports."

I think I can very quickly convince you that it is by no means possible to say that

Canada is the chief or an important source of our imports of lamb. In fact the imports are inconsequential. For 1937 the combined imports of mutton and lamb were 135,000 pounds. In relation to the production under federal inspection in this country, that is .02. Neither in the official monthly reports of foreign commerce nor in the special tabulation prepared by the Department of Commerce in connection with this hearing is the source of our mutton and lamb imports given at all. What little we get may come from Canada or it may not. I am inclined to think it does not, but I cannot determine the source. That, however, is of no consequence because there are no imports of any account and have not been for a great many years.

The production of lamb in this country has been increasing materially for the past eight years. The average production from 1930 to 1938 was 672,566,000 pounds. Here again I call your attention, Mr. Chairman, to the fact that these figures which we present to you cover only the data released by the Department of Agriculture as coming under the federal inspection system. Generally the statisticians in the department consider that the slaughter outside of the federal inspection is about 20 per cent of the whole, or 25 per cent of the federally inspected slaughter. Taking the statistics from the same source, we find that from 1930 to 1938, the average production, under federal inspection, of lamb and mutton increased over a like period from 1921 to 1929 by 23 per cent.

We are very much at a loss to understand why Canada should even have suggested to this country that lamb be listed for consideration in the negotiations of this present trade agreement. Certainly we do not need the imports and Canada does not need the exports. Her slaughter is less than one-eighth of that in this country, and as a matter of fact Canada now imports lamb, especially from New Zealand. Also, on September 29 last, the Canadian government announced a concession to New Zealand in the Canadian duties on lamb. Those duties became effective October 1, 1937, and reduced the duty in favor of New Zealand only, as I understand it, from 3 cents to 1/2 cent. So that with this country having what seems to us ought to be an excess supply and Canada having a deficient supply, we are at a loss to know why it should call for any serious consideration. It would seem that it must be a maneuver or a strategy on the part of our Canadian friends to use that in trading on something else.

A little bit further, if I may, Mr. Chair-

man, regarding the situation of lamb supply and prices in this country. I have already stated that in the eight years last past, we have increased our supply and production by 23 per cent over the eight years immediately preceding. Now, as to the present situation, I am going to make some comparisons here on specified grades which I will not burden you by naming or describing except to say that in the case of beef, pork and lamb, the grades which I have taken from the government figures are certainly fairly representative of the price situation.

Taking the 1929 price of beef steers, good grade, at New York, that is the wholesale meat price for 1929 as shown by the Department of Agriculture, it was 21.6 cents. The same source gives the same grade at 18 cents in 1937. The price of pork loins for 1937 was 88 per cent of the 1929 price. In the case of lamb, however, the 1937 price as related to the 1929 price was only 68.5 per cent, corroborating, I think, my general broader statements as to the sufficiency of our supply and the effect of the increase upon prices at which the American producer sells and at which the American consumer can buy.

However, Mr. Chairman, if we must assume that there is a possibility of competition from Canadian lamb, I will have to bore you just a few minutes more by my idea of how it could reasonably be expected to act. Canada has a large proportion of her lamb slaughter in the principal lamb marketing months of August to November, an even larger proportion than this country has. Canada does not engage in feeding lambs as it is carried on in this country. A larger proportion of lambs seem to come to the market when they are reaching five or six or seven months of age. As nearly as I can understand from the Canadian figures, the slaughter in those four months is just about a million head. Considering Canada's disposition to import frozen meat and to use it, and her former disposition to export to this country when she could, I am convinced that if you give her a sufficient tariff attraction and reduction to get into our markets, we might expect that during her peak season, somewhere between four and five hundred thousand lambs might possibly and not improbably reach this

I have made a computation which shows me that if such should be the case, the proportion of Canadian supply based on the 1936 figures, to our own, would be during those four months, 7.6 per cent. I am not going to burden you by dilating further on what an additional 7 per cent supply to a peak load might mean. I will ask you to consider further that normally in that same period of Canada's moving shipments into this country, our prices are variously depressed by our extra supply. The annual price of the good grade lambs in Chicago in 1936 for the year as reported by the Department of Agriculture was \$9.76, whereas for the same year the average August to November price was \$2.00 less.

Several of the witnesses, including Congressman Greever on Monday, have referred to the possible effect of the farm bill on the future meat supply. I will leave that by restating that we cannot and will not object to any competition which may come to the present lamb producers through the operation of economic factors and changes in the character of production in other parts of the country, but we are very critical of the competition that is subsidized by the government.

Just a further word about the possible imports. Of course what we are most concerned with in this negotiation of the trade agreement with the Canadians is the possibility of some concession that may be made on Canadian lambs, thereby becoming available to New Zealand and Australia, which are very large and important sources of production and are now exporting very largely and of course would like to come into this market. In fact the Australian slaughter is practically the same as in this country, and New Zealand about two thirds as much.

Mr. Chairman, I was rather encouraged and comforted when I came to Washington a few weeks ago and first had my attention called to the fact that it was not suggested or considered admitting any frozen meat through these negotiations, either from Canada or from the favored nations who might enjoy the reductions accorded to Canada. That comfort has entirely disappeared. I am now convinced that with reductions of duties only on fresh and chilled lamb, we would need to be prepared for material imports into the United States from New Zealand and Australia both. It is true that chilled beef has been shipped for a great many years from the Argentine to London, but it is also true that shipments of that chilled beef have increased very materially in the last one or two years. Mr. Mollin was asked a question, and I had an excerpt from a paper which I am unable to find at the moment, but it was a statement from Australia comparing the number of quarters of chilled beef exported from Australia in 1937 with other years. I will have to leave it by saying that there was a great increase in the chilled beef exports from Australia in 1937 as compared with 1936. Mr. Greever on Monday made reference to what I wish to carry a little bit further, and that is the matter of gas storage. He quoted from the statistical report from the Argentine which showed

that in 1937 the Argentine exported 92,000 tons of chilled beef. I am not so sure that he also stated that in 1937 Australia exported 343,000 quarters of frozen beef, which was about 25 per cent of her total beef exports, that is exports including chilled and frozen.

Gas storage is not entirely new. From some information that I have received through the kindness of friends in the Department of Agriculture, I find that very great improvements have been made in the use of gas storage in recent years. From a 1930 report of the British Food Investigation Board, on page 14, I find reference to the fact that investigators for the British government were working largely with beef, but in that year they added some mutton and pork to their gas storage experiment, and here is their statement in reference to the inclusion of mutton and pork in the CO 2 chambers along with the beef:

"The experiment was very successful. Over a period of sixty days, storage mould was insignificant, and the fat of all three types of meat was perfectly sweet."

Then later on in 1933, an Australian publication reporting for the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, speaking again only of this type of beef storage in connection with CO 2 storage said that beef may safely be held 53 days, which is equivalent to a transportation of 45 days.

There are some other references which I will not burden you with now, but my chief concern and cause for uneasiness, Mr. Chairman, is that in the event of a reduction of the duty on Canadian lamb, which we did not need and I do not see why Canada should want, shipment under gas storage from New Zealand and Australia would give them access to our market, in which we already have a very difficult situation in getting our increased supplies of lamb into consumption at a price that will enable us to keep on producing them.

CHAIRMAN GRADY: I thank you.

MR. GROVES: May I ask you one question, Mr. Marshall? What were the shipments of lamb and mutton from New Zealand to Canada?

MR. MARSHALL: I have no figures on that; I am sorry.

MR. GROVES: Was that frozen product?
MR. MARSHALL: So far as I know, it is all frozen at the present time. I do not think they have any facilities for gas storage there. I am pretty sure they have not. I think they must have all been frozen.

Mr. Groves: You do not fear any chilled imports from New Zealand?

Mr. Marshall: To the United States? Mr. Groves: To this market?

Mr. Marshall: I certainly do; I most certainly do.

Mr. Groves: Do you think it is feasible now?

Mr. Marshall: Yes, sir.

The Early Spring Lamb Crop

THE early spring lamb crop of 1938 in the principal early lambing states is at least 15 per cent larger than the small early crop of 1937, according to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. The condition of the early lambs about March 1 was exceptionally good in all areas, much above the condition a year earlier, and above average for March 1.

Present conditions, the Bureau's release states, indicate that the marketing of early lambs before July 1 this year will be materially larger than to that date last year, and that the average quality of the lambs will be much better. Marketings before July 1 of grass-fat yearling lambs from Texas, however, are expected to be considerably smaller than the record marketings of last year.

Conditions in the important early lamb states are reported as follows:

CALIFORNIA: A mild winter and generally abundant moisture have been very favorable for the early lamb crop, which promises to be one of the largest ever produced in that state. Rains came earlier in the Sacramento Valley than in the San Ioaquin Valley and supply of new grass has been better in the former area, but on March 1 green feed was abundant in all areas and the early lambs were developing favorably. Present conditions point to a large proportion of slaughter lambs and few feeders. The total slaughter within the state and eastward shipments to the end of June are expected to exceed materially those of last year and to be of near record size. As yet, few sales contracts have been made.

ARIZONA: While the winter was mild, moisture supplies were somewhat short, with delayed development of range feed, and necessitated holding the early lambs on ranch pastures. Recent rains, however, have improved the range. Lamb losses have been small and a large crop of good quality lambs is in prospect.

IDAHO: Weather has been unusually mild and wet during the early lambing period. Excessive moisture has been a handicap in some cases. The early lamb crop is expected to be about the same size as last year. Prospects for range feed are good.

WASHINGTON: Winter weather has been mild, with ample moisture, and ranges and pastures have furnished considerable green feed. Ewes are in good condition but there is some tendency toward later lambing following the bad early seasons in 1937 and 1936.

OREGON: The early lambing season has been much more favorable this year than last. Losses of lambs and ewes have been small in contrast to the heavy losses a year ago. Feed has been plentiful with green feed available in some areas. Shipments of early lambs before July 1 are expected to be much larger than last year.

Texas: Feed conditions are exceptionally good following generous rainfall in February. Ewes have wintered well and another large lamb crop is in prospect. The number of early lambs will probably be about the same as last year, with fewer from the main sheep area and more from the farming areas. Shipments of shorn grass-fat yearling lambs are expected to be considerably smaller this spring than the record shipments a year earlier, but above those of other recent years.

SOUTHEASTERN STATES: Weather conditions in the three southeastern states were quite favorable for early lambs, feed supplies have been abundant, and relatively cheap. The proportion of ewes that had lambed before March 1 was about average and much above that of last year. Ewes and lambs are reported in excellent condition. Prospects for spring pastures are generally good and it is expected the early lambs will make at least normal growth. Marketings before July 1 are expected to be much above the small marketings of last year.

TENNESSEE: Weather during the winter lambing period has been very favorable. Although the number of ewes is a little smaller than last year, this year's lamb crop may be little different from what it was in 1937, with a much larger proportion of the lambs dropped before March. Marketings before June 1 are expected to be much larger than last year.

KENTUCKY: Weather and feed conditions have been favorable for early lambs, and ewes and lambs are in good condition. An unusually large proportion of ewes had dropped lambs before March 1. The bulk of the lambs is expected to reach market weights earlier than last year.

VIRGINIA: Weather conditions have been favorable, with little snow; pastures have been available for grazing all winter. Lambing has been earlier than last year and ewes and early lambs are in very good condition.

Missours: The winter has been favorable and feed plentiful, and ewes have wintered well. The number of ewes lambing before March 1 is reported as above average and much above last year. A larger lamb crop is expected this year than last and marketing will be somewhat earlier.

NORTHWESTERN STATES: The winter in this area was mild with abundant moisture and feed supplies. Early lambing has been carried on under much more favorable conditions than either of the preceding two years. Conditions are favorable for development of range feed and a fairly early movement of lambs is expected.

The Federal Range Code

THE long-awaited rules to govern the administration of grazing districts under the Taylor Act were approved by Secretary Ickes on March 16.

A tentative draft of these rules was first presented to the stockmen at a series of state meetings during last October and they received further consideration the early part of December at a conference between representatives of the various district advisory boards and the officials of the Grazing Division of the Interior Department in Washington, D. C. At all these meetings vigorous objections to the change in the requirements for class 1 permits were voiced by stockmen, particularly from Utah and Idaho, and a strong endeavor was also made by several of the states to secure recognition of national forest permits and complementary feed in computing the carrying capacity of the lands "owned, leased, or controlled" by the applicant.

The efforts of the stockmen in both connections were of no avail, apparently. Section 4, paragraphs (a) and (b) of the new code classify base properties as follows:

Sec. 4. Rating and Classification of Properties.

Par. a. Base Properties: Classes; Carrying Capacity of Land; Service Value of Water. For the purpose of determining the proper use of the base properties of all applicants and their relative dependence upon the federal range, water conditions and other factors affecting livestock operations in the area will be considered. Base properties will be classified as land or water and further in the following manner:

Class 1—Forage land dependent by both location and use, and full-time prior water.

Class 2—Forage land dependent by use only, and full-time water.

Class 3—Forage land dependent by location only, and full-time water which otherwise would be in class 2 but which was developed later than other water servicing a part or all of the same area.

Base property which is forage land will be rated for its carrying capacity. Water will be rated for its service value by deducting therefrom the carrying capacity of half of the area serviced jointly by competing water of the same class, and the carrying capacity of all private or state land located within such service area and not owned or controlled by the applicant. In computing the service value of water in class 3, there will also be deducted therefrom the carrying capacity of any portion of its service area which is serviceable from any other full-time water antedating it in development.

Par. b. National Forest Grazing Permits; Complementary Feed. The value of national forest grazing permits and complementary feed will be computed in animal-unit months where necessary under these rules, but neither will be considered as base property.

On the basis of the above property classification, the issuance of licenses and permits is prescribed in Section 6 of the code as follows:

Sec. 6. Issuance of Licenses and Permits.

Par. a. Free-use Licenses and Permits. Licenses or permits first will be issued to free-use applicants for not to exceed 10 head of work or milch stock kept for domestic purposes, to be grazed on federal range adjacent to or in the immediate neighborhood of the licensee's or permittee's property.

Par. b. Regular Licenses and Permits; Order of Issuance; Number of Livestock; Reductions; Allotments. Regular licenses or permits will be issued to qualified applicants to the extent that federal range is available in the following preference order and amounts:

(1) To applicants owning or controlling land in class 1, licenses or permits for the number of livestock for which such base lands are rated for a period of time which when added to the period of use allowed on the federal range for such livestock will equal twelve months; and to applicants owning or controlling water in class 1, licenses or permits to the extent of the service value of such water.

(2) Applicants owning or controlling base properties in class 2, licenses or permits computed in the same manner as those issued under subparagraph (1), above.

(3) To applicants owning or controlling base properties in class 3, licenses or permits computed in the same manner as those issued under subparagraphs (1) and (2), above.

In the event that federal range remains available following the computation of licenses or permits in the foregoing manner, the licenses or permits to be issued to applicants owning or controlling any base property the use of which in connection

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with the federal range is supplemented by the use of a forest permit or complementary feed will be augmented to the extent of the number of livestock which such forest permit or complementary feed would support for a period equivalent to the baseproperty period described above. In the event that there is insufficient federal range to permit this maximum allowance, all such licenses or permits, irrespective of classes of base property, will be augmented in proportion to the carrying capacities of the base properties of the applicants.

Par. c. Applicants Having More Than One Class of Property; Reductions; Allotments; Agreements. Nothing herein contained will prevent an applicant who owns or controls properties in more than one class from having such properties considered separately in the order and manner set forth in this section. If the issuance of licenses or permits based on properties in any particular class will exhaust the available federal range, any junior class or classes of properties will be eliminated from consideration. If necessary to reach the carrying capacity of the federal range either at the time of issuing licenses or permits or thereafter, reductions will be applied on an equal percentage basis. In making such reductions, the lowest class of properties will be reduced first, and no class of properties will be reduced until the properties in all lower classes have been reduced. Reductions in all cases will be made by reducing the numbers of livestock or the time on the federal range area involved, or by both methods, provided that the regional grazier may recommend, for the approval of the Secretary of the Interior, a limit below which no license or permit in that area will be reduced. Allotments of federal range will be made to licensees or permittees when conditions warrant and divisions of the range by agreement or by former practice will be respected and followed where practicable.

Immediately following the issuance of the new regulations, the advisory board of Idaho Grazing District No. 2, which covers the twelve south central Idaho counties, meeting to pass upon applications for licenses or permits, found that the new qualifications for base properties, especially the Grazing Division's interpretation of "dependency by location," would jeopardize the holdings of a large percentage of Idaho stockmen. A resolution was passed, which, as reported in the Salt Lake Tribune for March 26, stated that, in the board's opinion, the interpretation of the 1938 range code and the procedure in classification of properties as construed by the Division of Grazing "is not adaptable to the best interests of the livestock operations in the district"; that they objected to "passing on applications under the Division of Grazing's interpretation of the rules"; and that, in considering 1938 applications, their recommendations would be made as the board interpreted such code, "especially with reference to the qualification which distinguishes between class 1 and class 2 base properties and particularly the interpretation of dependency by location."

It is understood that Idaho Grazing District No. 1 is also strongly protesting the new code.

In Utah, districts 1 and 4 are confronted with a situation somewhat similar to that in Idaho; namely, that under the new base property interpretations a large proportion of the stockmen who qualified under class 1 last

vear would fall into the lower classes. The advisory board of District No. 1. which includes the grazing areas in the counties of Cache, Box Elder, Rich. Weber, Davis, Morgan and Summit is basing its consideration of 1938 applications on the 1937 rules and has appealed to the Division of Grazing for special rules to govern in its case. It is understood that Chesley P. Seely, district grazier, has temporarily permitted the action taken by the Utah board on account of the peculiar situation created by the new rules in that district.

It is not known what, if any, action was taken by the advisory board of Utah District No. 4, located in the southern part of the state, but they have made very strong protest against the new classification, which they state will call for drastic reductions of flocks in many instances.

Pacific Wool Growers Elect Officers

J. T. ALEXANDER of Chehalis, Washington, was reelected president of the Pacific Wool Growers at the first meeting of the newly elected board of directors held April 8-9, at the Portland headquarters of the cooperative. Dr. Edwin Bunnell, Willows, California, and R. A. Ward, Portland, were reelected vice presidents and C. E. Grelle, Portland, secretary. The Executive Committee for the coming year will consist of Messrs. Alexander, Bunnell, Grelle, R. L. Clark of Portland, and G. A. Sandner of Scio.

Manager Ward presented his annual report which dealt chiefly with the operation of the Commodity Credit Corporation loan, the wool market and the services which the Pacific Wool Growers have been performing for the wool industry since the last board meeting. Included in these services was the filing of a brief opposing any reduction in the tariff on wool and wool products in the proposed trade agreements, and the appearance by the manager before the Committee for Reciprocity Information, testifying on behalf of the Pacific Wool Growers and the National Association. Mr. Ward also spoke at the annual conventions of the California, Oregon, Washington and Montana Wool Growers Associations and the National Wool Growers Association, discussing the operations of the wool top futures exchange and its effect on the wool growers. In Washington, D. C., he appeared before the Federal Trade Commission on behalf of the petition to establish fair trade practices in the woolen industry which would require the labeling of fabrics to distinguish virgin wool from shoddy. The manager also testified before the Senate Wool Committee in connection with the wool top futures

exchange bill.

Directors of the Pacific Wool Growers are: J. T. Alexander; Dr. Edwin Bunnell; R. L. Clark; Jas H. Day, Wellington, Nev.; Carlyle C. Eubank, Ogden, Utah; C. E. Grelle; R. G. Johnson, Corvallis, Ore.; E. A. Mc-Cornack, Eugene, Ore.; Harvey S. Hale, Twin Falls, Idaho; D. E. Richards, Union, Ore.; L. A. Robertson, Garberville, Calif.; G. A. Sandner; Guy Stambaugh, Deer Lodge, Mont.; J. O. Sorenson, Ellensburg, Wash.; Carl Whitmore, Joseph, Ore.

The Breeding and Preparation Of a Jop Clip

By Frank C. Clarke
President, California Wool Growers
Association



Young ewe and aged ewe about to be shorn at the Clarke ranch.

Fleeces shorn from the ewes at the Clarke ranch at Laytonville, California, are prize winners wherever they are shown. Their record includes many state championships, highest honors at several Pacific International Expositions at Portland, a grand championship at the Chicago International in 1932 and a similar award at the Texas Centennial in 1936. Lambs bred from Clarke ewes likewise have made a notable record.

This paper, which Mr. Clarke read before the 73rd Annual Convention of the National Wool Growers Association in Salt Lake City on January 27, 1938, covers the essential features in the production of a top clip of wool under range conditions.

WOOL production is one of the oldest and most important industries known. My message here is based on experiences out on the Pacific Coast and in northwest California, about 150 miles north of San Francisco Bay area. Six or seven counties are included in the northwestern or North Coastal group as this area is called, when speaking of the half million or more sheep which are raised therein.

Our locality is one of very wet winters, very dry summers! What kind of sheep are we going to raise and range in such a region—where the rainfall runs from 60 inches to 100 inches or more per winter, where the summers are very dry and fire hazards run high; where the country is rough and where several acres are needed to furnish sufficient food for each sheep?

The fine-wooled sheep, Rambouillet

and American Merino, are naturally adapted to our dry season. They can stand very severe hardships, and the fact that they are gregarious in nature and can breed and reproduce under very adverse conditions adds to their being particularly adapted to our great western plains and mountains and to our dry seasons.

The pioneers to this northwestern California brought several breeds of sheep with them, chiefly Spanish Merinos; also some Southdowns, Cotswolds, Lincolns and Shropshires. After several decades the verdict was vastly in favor of the Spanish Merino, for it was found that this Merino sheep could endure the Mendocino hills and climate better during the wet season than the mutton breeds could endure it during the dry season. * * *



If the fleece is carefully clipped, it tends to hold together like a blanket, as shown in the above picture. Ralph S. Magnuson, holding the fleece, has shorn for Mr. Clarke for fourteen years. "He is straight and surely knows how to clip a fleece for the show or for the bag," Mr. Clarke states.

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The success of building up a wool clip over a period of years requires a balanced program, which in reality consists of the proper functioning of a veritable chain of factors or operations, and if any one of these is neglected, the resulting product, wool, is quite sure to show some defect.

Breeding

What then are main factors, universally found, which have to do with the production of wool? Breed and feed, care and management, climate and topography, disease, predatory animals, etc.; in other words, growing a crop of wool has to do with the fundamental things which go toward the success or failure of any agricultural crop, either plant or animal.

The following is briefly the history of our operations in northwest California. The operators had been dairymen. Selling their bovines prior to 1883, they secured 1,000 Spanish Merino ewes. In due time, according to natural increase, this number was doubled.

As in most cases, these new entrants into the sheep business lived to learn: trial and error was the rule. Difficulties beset on every side. But after a decade of persistent struggle and careful observations of other operators, certain things were coming to light:

1. It was evident that the Spanish Merino sheep was the one best adapted to that region. This sheep was the ancestor of our present-day coast Merino or American Merino.

2. In order to increase uniformity and other desirable characteristics in the flock. it was necessary to cull the band, to dispose of those which showed infirmities, which were poor producers or were in any way poorly adapted to the surroundings. This culling was done once a year, at shearing time, about the middle of May.

The lamb crop was also culled, the sort being made just prior to shearing. They were then about three to four months old. Those offered for sale were the small ones, both ewe and wether lambs, or those which were too wrinkly or were too woolly over the face or poorly built, etc.

The larger ewe lambs, provided they were the right sort, were retained on the ranch for breeding purposes. It was deemed these individuals had the best start in life and would be able better to make it through the first year.

4. After a number of years of this prac-

tice, we were confident of two things: We were slowly increasing the size and desirable make-up of our ewes. Second, we were eliminating the factor of twin reproduction because the small ewe lambs which were sold, were largely twins, the very individuals carrying the genetic factors of twin reproduction. This feature though was not without its merits, for it was a well-known fact that where we lambed out on the hills as we did and usually do now, a ewe stood a much better chance of raising offspring where her energies were concentrated on one lamb instead of being divided between two, especially if adverse weather conditions prevailed during the lambing season.

5. As time went on, more attention was paid to the fleece. Our ideal was a long, bright, crimpy staple and a growth that gave the observer a "handful of quality" as he might observe for grade, density, softness, etc. Rams with fleeces carrying heavy

yolk were never used.

6. Securing rams of the right type and covering was always a difficult task. An individual ram (or ewe either) might score high, but the reaction of his (or her) offspring scattered over the hills was the real test of value.

About 50 miles north of San Francisco Bay one Frank Mecham was breeding Spanish Merinos in the early days. He had progressed considerably toward developing the present-day American Merino of that district. He aimed at smooth bodies, long white wool and specialized on a polled type. This suited our fancy and we used that stock largely for twenty years.

But more size was desired than could be obtained by this strain. So during the first few years of this century we secured a few ewes and some polled registered Rambouillet rams from this state-from W. S. Hansen of Collinston, Utah. These, with a small group of our own raising, furnished a nucleus from which we raised our own rams for another decade.

Then it appeared that possibly we were not incorporating all the super qualities which the well-bred horned Rambouillet flocks possessed. course, we were comparing our range stuff with rather pampered, well-fitted farm stud flocks. In 1912 we started using purebred horned Rambouillet blood for sires and have continued ever since, every two or three years, selecting one, two or three registered stud individuals from which we have raised our own service rams.

Regardless of names or strains. horns or none, pedigrees or without. the one standard of measure on our place was adaptability. The great American crop of grass was there, it was the cheapest food supply, it should be used and the ewe that could make a living out upon the hills, come in at shearing time in good flesh, with a good lamb and a good fleece was the one fitted for the job and the only one worth paying taxes on.

In the earlier days of the business. cullings and eliminations were frequently handled with a vengeance and likewise are at the present time. Several purchases were used only once. The story goes that the late I. H. Clarke not only killed a certain purchased ram but scoured the ranch with a rifle to make sure of any offspring. Another incident still fresh in the mind of the speaker indicates the way in which the breeding ewes were guarded.

The same above-mentioned owner discovered that within the previous night, three crossbred rams had gotten into a bunch of 200 young ewes out upon the hills that were being held for special breeding the following fall. Discovering the tragedy and being anxious to halt activities immediately, he, being armed with one of the weapons of predatory animal control, promptly shot down the three rams, and when some thirty unwanted offspring arrived five months later and out of season, they were promptly executed and buried.

For the past twenty years we have operated our sheep in two groups. The better half has been used for breeding or replacement purposes. The lower grade group has been bred to produce lambs suitable for mutton purposes. All the lambs of this group together with the wether lambs and a few ewe lambs of the top group are sold each spring. The ewe lambs of the top group are retained.

This top band of ewes has been selected over a long period of time. Most of this selection work has been done just prior to shearing, although observations are made throughout the year. Ewes are selected on the basis

(Continued on page 37)

National Wool Marketing





Corporation News Bulletin

Grower Owned and Operated

The Wool Market

MARCH has come and gone with little net change in wool values, though since the advent of the announcement of the Commodity Credit Corporation loan which provided a definite bottom to the market, there has been more firmness observed and a general better feeling.

The market, however, has been a rather spotty affair with combing wool used in the worsted trade getting the call over the shorter lengths. As the month closed, sales were registered of fair weights of better combing lengths of both fine and half blood wool. Some staple combing length, fine graded territory wool, which is almost a specialty, sold as high as 68 to 70 cents clean, which on a 65 per cent shrinkage would mean 24 to 25 cents in the grease at Boston.

French combing length of similar wools had a scoured value of 63 to 66 cents, which on a 64 per cent shrinkage would mean 23 to 24 cents in the grease. Some original bag lines of fine territory wools running to pretty good length were selling from 65 to 67 cents clean. Shorter combing lengths of fine territory were quoted from 63 to 65 cents scoured, and good French combing length 60 to 62 cents clean. There was a little graded staple, combing length, half blood territory wool sold at 64 to 67 cents, which on an average shrinkage of 60 per cent would mean a grease price of 26 to 27 cents.

Medium grades of territory wool all month had only occasional calls and then at 57 to 59 cents clean for three-eighths blood combing, and 50 to 54 cents clean for quarter blood. These prices have continued week after week, but of late they have leaned more toward the high than the low side.

Reports coming in from the West indicate there are some sales being made in the country. Toward the close of the month one accumulation of approximately 500,000 pounds at Sonora, Texas, was sold at 23½ cents in the grease. It was claimed to have cost around 63 cents landed Boston clean basis. These wools were reported of French combing length. Arizona reported some sales of French combing wool estimated to cost 62 to 63 cents clean Boston.

At Roswell, New Mexico, two clips brought 185/8 cents and 183/4 cents in the grease and were estimated to cost 62 to 63 cents landed Boston. A clip held over from last year brought 203/4 cents. It was a little better wool and figured on a clean basis 65 to 66 cents. In southern California topmakers have picked up wool at a cost figured to be 57 to 63 cents scoured landed East. Fine wool from Casper, Wyoming, has been sold from 62 to 65 cents clean.

In the medium wool section from Idaho sales are reported at 20 cents. Some good wool from around Montrose, Colorado, sold around 21 cents. These prices are generally anywhere from 45 to 65 per cent under those prevailing a year ago. Of course, only a very small proportion of the wool has been sold this year as compared with a year ago at this time.

The general feeling is that little will be sold, certainly not until the growers have had a chance of learning further details of the Commodity Credit Corporation loan. This loan is credited by all in the trade with having a stabilizing effect on all branches of the industry. It has provided a definite floor on which a market can be built, eliminating the necessity of any grower throwing his wool on the market at the present time. It has provided him with a loan without recourse, a loan that does not involve any production control and yet one in which he retains full beneficial interest. As one trade paper stated the other day, it provided the grower with a chance to corner his own market if he will but take advantage of it.

Supply Picture Not Bad

While everyone agrees that the April 1 stock report, which will be released by the middle of the month, undoubtedly will show a greater volume of wool in the hands of all interests—dealers, manufacturers, topmakers and growers—than was the case last year at this time, yet the total figures are expected to average under that of the same date for the last six or seven years. Furthermore, due to the sharp falling off of imports of foreign wools, the statistical position is expected to show an improvement over that of January 1.

Importations of foreign wool have practically ceased. What wool is coming in is only in dribbles here and there,

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and when re-exports are deducted from imports it is showing less than three million pounds for the year, whereas for the same period last year the importations totaled in excess of 75 million pounds.

Figures that also were of interest relative to supply were those released lately on the consumption of wool during February. During that month the weekly consumption of wool by mills totaled on a grease basis 6,965,000 pounds, which was the highest consumption of any month since last October. In other words, the worm had turned. March figures, while not available as yet, undoubtedly will be fully as satisfactory as those of February.

However, we cannot expect this consumption to pick up until general business conditions improve, and some decision is announced on the proposed reciprocal trade agreement with Great Britain. Hearings on this from the standpoint of wool were completed this month, and enlisted on the side of the wool grower were, of course, his own organizations, the dealers, manufacturers and organized labor. Those close to the situation feel that a decision will not be reached before summer, and it is more than possible that the treaty will not go into effect until fall or early winter months.

Quite naturally, until the decision is known manufacturers are going to be hesitant about manufacturing any great amount of woolen or worsted goods unless they have a definite order on hand, and those organizations giving orders, too, will be reluctant to order any great amount in advance. Neutral observers have pointed out that the wool industry presented a very strong case, and to see but slight change made in the tariff would not be at all unexpected.

Heavyweight Season Opens

Of interest during this last month has been the opening of the 1938-1939 heavyweight season. Prices announced by the manufacturers were anywhere from 35 to 55 cents a yard under those of a year ago. These should be very attractive levels to prospective purchasers and should result in a fair volume of business. As to prices, for example, the American Woolen Company announced a 15-ounce, all-wool worsted at \$1.65 a yard, and a year ago this was priced at \$2.00.

Here again it is questionable whether the manufacturers can make up goods at these prices, considering the cost of the raw material. It is a known fact that these interests are for the most part very shortly covered and the bulls in the trade are anticipating a rush to cover if any volume of buying takes place. It is generally felt that buyers on the other hand will probably hold off the placing of any orders in volume until they see how the spring business turns out. Easter coming a little later than usual this year has delayed the volume of Easter buying.

Textile Apparel Inventory Sound

Recently one of the leading agencies in America made a survey of the combined inventory position of textiles and apparel. The results were that their position was the most favorable of any major industry. In fact the combined in-

ventory position of textiles and garments in the hands of manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers was reported to be more favorable than that of foods, which can only mean that the textile industry is in an excellent position for an upturn, if there should be any improvement in general business conditions.

Furthermore, reports of retail sales in the large centers continue to show that while the volume is under that of a year ago, it has not declined as much as general business conditions. In fact, in some cities reports for the last week in March showed a slight increase over a year ago, and most cities reported an increase over the preceding week in volume of retail sales.

Foreign Markets Holding Up In Good Shape

While reports of foreign markets indicate some unevenness, prices for the last month have been generally firm. As is usually the case the selection, particularly in Australia, is not quite so good as it was several months ago. It includes more of the wool whose market is always spotted. However, late reports indicate a very good clearance and at the last of the week both England and Japan were outstanding buyers.

In New Zealand France has come into the field, and prices there have been generally firm for the last of the month with fairly good clearance. South American wools have been rather slow to move, but prices have held up fairly well. However, throughout the entire Southern Hemisphere supplies of wool are a good 20 per cent in excess of a year ago. At the last series of London auctions, which closed recently, prices held up much better than was anticipated, closing values being generally at par to 5 per cent lower than they were in the preceding series.

Business Conditions Still Down

As far as general business conditions are concerned, they, of course, are of primary importance in influencing the course of our wool market. We find the automotive industry running less than 50 per cent of a year ago, producing around 57,000 units per week. The steel industry has been working at approximately 33 per cent of full capacity as against 80 per cent a year ago. The production of bituminous coal is approximately 35 per cent less.

Industrial production is off; employment and payrolls, while they have picked up sharply over February, are still under a year ago, as is general farm income. Obviously these conditions must all improve before there can be any pronounced improvement in the wool market. Those who study the wool market seem to feel that improvement in these lines will not set in before the third or fourth quarter of 1938, and are predicting that the 1938 average of industrial production will run under that of 1937, but that the figures on the second half of the year will be much better than that of the first half.

Translated in terms of the wool market, if this should come about it would be hard to expect anything but minor advances in the wool market over the next two or three months, especially as during that time a great weight of wool will be thrown on the market. Then, as general conditions improve, we should see increased consumption of wool and an improvement in our market. History tells us that as a general rule mills all jump in together, which should make for a sharper advance. Under these conditions peak prices for the year, as was the case in 1936, should be during the last quarter.

The National Wool Marketing Corporation holds to its policy of withholding wool from the market until a broad mill demand develops and until prices more closely approach foreign importing parity. With the adoption of this strong position it is apparent that this organization is exerting a stabilizing and strengthening effect to the entire wool

market.

Under these conditions it certainly would appear as though it would be highly advantageous to the grower to withhold his wool from the market and not try to force it on a market where mill demand is not any broader than that which exists today. Orderly movement of what remains of the 1937 clip as well as the 1938 clip will add materially to the income of the sheepman.

National Agencies Ready to Handle Wool Under C. C. C. Loan

WITH the exception of a few relatively minor details yet to be worked out, all arrangements have been completed by member agencies of the National Wool Marketing Corporation to handle their members' wool under the terms of the Commodity Credit Corporation loan. Authority has been received by the member agencies to proceed with the acceptance of consignments of wool from their growers under exactly the same general plan as has been in operation for years.

The grower who desires the C.C.C. loan will simply sign the 1938 market agreement and immediately on shipment of his wool, a flat field advance is made available to him, based on the average wool produced in his territory. Wool from the territory states will then be forwarded to Boston for appraisal by inspectors of the Commodity Credit Corporation. From them authority will be granted immediately after appraisal to complete the loan to the grower.

The advantages of storing this wool at Boston will be several. First, it will permit the grower to receive a larger loan on his wool. Actually he will receive the Boston loan value on his wool, less actual transportation and a slight assembling charge. Wools that are stored elsewhere than in Boston will carry loans based on the Boston loan value, less the all-rail rate to Boston, which will amount to more than actual transportation costs in many cases. Still another advantage is that the wools when stored in Boston, are at a

point where they can be freely inspected by mill buyers. They become spot wools that have a higher market value when the wool is required for immediate consumption.

A third advantage is that wools from the dry, arid, sections of the West pick up weight in the East. Records kept on Utah wools, for example, show gains amounting to as much as the equivalent of half a cent per pound in the value of the wool.

Should the wool be sold prior to the completion of the ten-month loan, or May 31, 1939, the same marketing charges that have been in effect for years will be followed. In such a case the wool would necessarily have to bring at least the full amount of the loan, plus the cost of warehous-

ing and marketing.

Knowing that most consignors of the 1937 clip are also vitally interested in taking advantage of the C.C.C. loan on wools, details are being worked out so that the grower can put this wool in a collateral position also. While the warehouses of the National are now known to be acceptable as storage points for wool, there are many details still to be worked out as to what other warehouses will be acceptable. It is generally felt that the C.C.C. will include federal licensed warehouses, all licensed warehouses with a capital structure equivalent to the requirements of a federal licensed warehouse and field warehouses that are capitalized as required by federal licensed warehouses.

One of the strongest talking points in favor of a grower taking out his loan through the National and its member agencies is that when he markets his wool in this manner all red tape is eliminated. It is the simplest, shortest, and most satisfactory method of taking advantage of the loan. Full details can be secured by the grower by consulting the nearest member agency of the National.

National Shows 35 Per Cent Increase

Figures on the total volume of the 1937 clip consigned to the National Wool Marketing Association through its member agencies, show an increase in volume of 35 per cent as compared with 1936. On the basis of the total clip available, figures also show the member agencies handled over 10 per cent of the wool available in the territory which they served. This is indeed felt to be a most creditable record, in view of the active buying which featured the start of the 1937 season.

Pardon Us, North and South Dakota

In the March issue of the National Wool Grower, in listing the territory states which we serve by member agencies of the National, an omission was made of the Cooperative Wool Growers Association of South Dakota, located at Brookings, and the North Dakota Wool Marketing Association, whose headquarters are at Fargo. We are sorry. These two agencies, in addition to the list in the March issue, are ready to serve the growers.

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WOMEN'S AUXILIARIES

Material for this department should be sent to the National Press Corres-pondent, Mrs. Emory C. Smith, 1636 Princeton Avenue, Salt Lake City, Utah.

OREGON

One of the most active chapters in the National Auxiliary is the Malheur County Wool Growers Auxiliary of Oregon. They have a long list of activities to their credit and consistently send in good reports to us of what

work they are doing.

In February the Malheur County chapter met on the eighth of the month at the home of Mrs. Fred Bailey, where thirteen members and one visitor spent an interesting afternoon. The meeting was presided over by Mrs. Fred Trenkel, and Mrs. Jess Adrian discussed the by-products of the woolen industry.

No business meeting was held by the chapter in January, instead the members entertained their husbands at a dinner-dance at the Episcopal Hall the evening of January 11. This event proved to be such a success that it is planned to make it an annual event

in the future.

On March 8, the chapter met at the home of Mrs. T. R. Chambers in Ontario, Oregon. There were but seven members and three visitors present, but it is very gratifying to note that. three new members were welcomed into this group at this time, bringing the total membership to 27.

The president, Mrs. Fred Trenkel presided over the meeting, during which a committee was appointed to prepare year books and Mrs. M. M. Joyce presented a paper, "The Whirl of the Wool Wheel," which was appreciated

by those present.

Activities in which the group are particularly interested in at present are the securing of new members, knitting articles of wearing apparel and working on plans for a style show.

The next meeting will be held April 12 at the home of Mrs. Duncan Fraser. Mrs. M. M. Joyce, Secretary

IDAHO

The year just passed proved to be one of the most successful in the history of the Auxiliary to the Idaho Wool Growers Association. Many worthwhile projects were undertaken and brought to a successful close. The following brief resume outlines some of the work accomplished by five chapters belonging to the state organization.

In January a state convention was held at Pocatello with an attendance of forty at the auxiliary meeting. In July a woolen blanket was given as a door prize at the Women's Camp which was held at Pond's Resort. This was an advertising stunt in connection with a talk on wool by Miss Hepworth of the University of Idaho. A new chapter consisting of sixteen members was organized during the year at Bancroft, Idaho, bringing to a total of five the chapters enrolled in the state organization. The State President visited each of the chapters at least once during the year.

At the Southeastern Idaho Fair, held at Blackfoot, the auxiliary sponsored a booth of woolen articles consisting of hand-knitted dresses and other handmade articles, blankets, robes, and coats from the woolen mills. Another blanket was given away here to the holder of the lucky number. lady visiting the booth was asked to register and it was shown that a total of 2,388 ladies examined, and discussed the attractive exhibit. This project proved very successful inasmuch as it drew the attention of innumerable ladies to the many uses of yarn and other woolen products.

UTAH

Salt Lake Chapter

The Salt Lake City chapter held its regular monthly meeting at the Belvedere Lounge on March 14, 1938. Prior to the business meeting, luncheon was served to sixteen members and two guests. Hostesses for the occasion were the officers.

Miss Josephine Smith entertained with two piano selections.

The chapter was very fortunate to secure Mrs. Hazel D. Moyle, an authority on gardening and landscaping. for the speaker of the afternoon. In introducing Mrs. Moyle, Mrs. David Smith touched briefly on an address to the New York City Girl Scouts by Mrs. Constance Spry, one of England's best-known and most sought after authorities on gardening and flower decoration. In her address, Mrs. Spry brought out the point that if all people would devote some time to working with the soil, thereby bringing out the best instincts in man's nature, it would go a long ways towards abolishing war and discontent.

Mrs. Moyle, who has one of the loveliest gardens in the city, gave a very interesting discussion of gardening problems, including a brief history of gardening from the beginning to the present, and a discussion of the different types of flowers and the climates for which they are suited. She also showed illustrations of many beautiful flowers which may be grown from seed, and told where the seed could be secured. When to spray roses and the proper sprays to use also came into the discussion.

Mrs. O. R. Ivory gave wool current events, including among them the fifty million dollars set aside by the government for loans on wool to bolster prices.

Mrs. Sylvester Broadbent, Mrs. E. J. Kearns, and Mrs. H. H. Stevens T

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were nominated for the nominating committee, two other members of the committee to be appointed by the directors before the next meeting.

Mrs. Lucy Seely reported a meeting of the Council of Women at which Mayor John M. Wallace gave an address and parking meters were discussed.

The report of the Music Council was; given by Mrs. Royal M. Smith, who stated that two new music scholarships have been awarded by the council.

Ashley Auxiliary

During the past few months several very interesting meetings have been held by the Ashley Auxiliary to the Utah Wool Growers Association.

In October sixteen members and friends were entertained at the home of Mrs. Abe Hatch, who was assisted by Mrs. C. W. Showalter. A delicious luncheon was served, after which Mrs. L. G. Noble gave a book review on the popular "Gone With the Wind."

Mrs. E. A. Bennion was assisted by Mrs. Hugh W. Colton in entertaining the chapter in December. After a general business discussion a review of the book entitled "The Return to Religion" was given by Mrs. Wm. B. Wallis, after which refreshments were served by the hostesses to fifteen members.

The regular monthly meeting during January was held at the home of Mrs. W. M. H. Siddoway on the 16th, with Mrs. Mable Batty assisting. A general discussion of affairs pertaining to the organization took place and a general report was given by Mrs. B. H. Stringham, chapter president. Election of officers was postponed until the June meeting. Tasty refreshments were served to twelve members and two guests.

In March, Mrs. Raymond Siddoway and Mrs. S. J. Hatch were the hostesses at the home of the latter on the 7th. A general business discussion was had after which Mrs. L. P. Christensen reviewed the book "Log Cabin Lady." The hostesses served refreshments to eleven members and friends.

The Ashley Wool Growers Association held its annual banquet at the Commercial Hotel on February 8, being assisted by the auxiliary. This affair proved to be very successful there being eighty-three present. The ladies' auxiliary conducted a raffle of a hand-made rug made of wool and gathered a neat sum from the sale.

Mrs. Lydia Tyzack, Secretary

Notes on the Cuff Taken at the National Convention

The officers of the National Auxiliary each wore a bright woolly pom-pom made up of the Auxiliary colors—which might be a suggestion for the use of scraps of colored yarns to complement various costumes. It was stated that these pom-poms could be very easily made up of the raw wool which had been colored.

A special treat was enjoyed by a good many of the visiting ladies on Wednesday of the convention when they were taken into the choir section of the great Mormon Tabernacle to hear Frank W. Asper give his daily organ recital. The advantage of sitting there was that they were able to watch Mr. Asper's manipulation of the complicated organ console. At the conclusion of the regular concert, Mr. Asper obligingly gave an additional number, "O, My Father," which is one of the most beloved Mormon hymns. He also told a few interesting facts pertaining to the organ.

The ladies' convention was fortunate in having a very charming song leader, Mrs. Olive Hickman, who had no difficulty in bringing out the voices of those present in the familiar songs of the range.

The Washington ladies were very ambitious, carrying their knitting wherever they went—and taking a stitch now and then.

Mrs. W. P. Mahoney, president of the National Auxiliary, called the convention together by rapping the gavel and board made of apple wood and presented by the Washington State Auxiliary to the National Auxiliary.

"The Wool Grower"

THE following original poem by a very clever Idahoan was read at the luncheon at the annual convention of the Ladies' Auxiliary to the Idaho Wool Growers Association held in Boise. I was not informed as to whether or not the author is the wife of a wool grower but after reading her story in rhyme I believe you will agree that she must be very closely associated with the industry.

The wool grower had a little lamb, Its fleece was white as snow. He tended it most carefully, To make its thick wool grow.

When but a tiny baby thing, It nibbled leaves of hay And though the owner braved the storms, The lamb kept warm and gay.

When Springtime came, it trailed beside Its mother to the prairie And dined on tender shoots of grass, And Uncle Sam's primitive area.

All long vacation time it played,
'Neath pines, so cool and airy,
And ate wild weeds, and drank its fill
And grew and waxed quite merry—

While Father fought the grazing act, And juggled with the banker, To coax some extra funds to pay, For water from the tanker.

When shipping season came around, He trailed them down for slaughter, But Swift's and Armour's hardboiled knaves, Nicked off one and a quarter.

Young sister maybe needs some shoes, And Buddy wants a business But no! "You know the lambs must eat," And we must pay the interest.

So as the months roll by once more, The banker pares the budget, Poor Father sings the same old song "I hate so to begrudge it."

Now, if you want an optimist, Just kindly look this way The wool grower's family fills the bill, It's Pray, and Starve, and Pay.

-Helen R. Skillern

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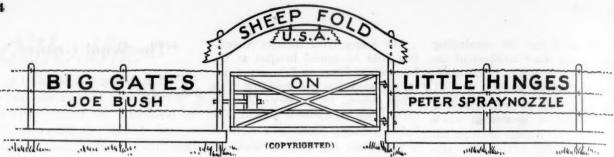
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Mrs. E. Stevens



THIS is Peter Spraynozzle writing from Sheepfold for Joe Bush und me. Early this month of April the Big Gates that Swing on Little Hinges opened und Joe und me spent two days at the "get together" of the Utah Horse und Cattle Growers Association. In May the Washington State Cattle Growers have asked Joe und me to come to Omak to take part in their "get together."

At the Utah cattlemen's convention we listened to Hub Russell, cattleman of Arizona und California und president of the national organization, speak on the national outlook of the livestock industry.

There we heard the Mayor of our town make a "You are welcome" speech. He made mention of having been working on an Abram bond issue. Joe Bush said that he thought the bond issues floated by Abram were dead issues, having been taken care of by Abram's son Isaac und his grandson Jacob—but looks like all they did was to keep up the interest.

There we heard L. C. Montgomery of Heber, president of the Utah Cattlemen's Association tell how Joseph of Canaan vas kidnaped. In those days, according to President Montgomery's tale, vhen kidnapers naped a kid, they did not hold him for ransom, kill him, hide the body, or ship him away on consignment. They looked for und found a cash buyer and made an FOB sale.

President Montgomery advised the cattlemen to read Genesis 39th chapter, but Joe Bush says more better read deeper into the story than that; read the story of Joseph's administration as Secretary of Agriculture to King Tut; read the speech Joseph made to the farmers, cattle und sheepmen as reported by Moses, Genesis 47-23 vhere he said, "I have this day bought YOU and YOUR lands for Pharaoh." Und believe it or not, the farmers und stockmen passed a resolution that reads (Gen. 47-25): "Thou hast saved our lives und we will be Pharaoh's servants."

Joe Bush says the most obstructive stumbling blocks sheep und cattlemen find in their climb out of the depression are the misdirected energies of energetic men. Joseph saved the farmer, brought the livestock men real relief—relieved him of his flocks und herds, relieved him of his lands, relieved him of his tax burden, relieved him of his real und personal property, und to make clean the slate—I quote Gen. 47-21—"Und as for the people, he removed them to the cities from one end of the borders of Egypt even to the other end thereof." Think that over you stockmen

who love to sing till the rafters ring of your "Home, Home on the Range."

The story of Joseph, Secretary of Agriculture in Egypt, might have had a different ending if the stockmen then had been organized; if their leaders had talked straight from the shoulder, talked as Hub Russell und President Montgomery of the cattlemen's association talk; talk as Roscoe Rich und Fred Marshall, Sam Jorgensen und Jim Hooper of the wool growers talk. Tell what they want done—not ask what they may do.

Don't look like an administration elected to conduct the affairs of the nation or the state should play around or prank or experiment too much vid the business of the farm und stock-raising. Banks, business, industry und labor may stand for a lot und recover in a hurry, but farming und stock-raising need much of the element of time.

Mines can start operations in December as in May; a business revival can start as well in March as in November; employment may open for labor as well in the fall as in the spring. Not so with the business of the range und the ranch. Wheat, corn und cotton must have much of the element of time between planting und the harvest to make a crop. Poultrymen can count their "chickens before they're hatched"; stockmen can figger a calf or lamb crop, guess at a wool clip; but to know for sure the stockman must wait for the harvest, the market returns. Und Joe Bush says, "Don't overlook the deducks"; they're important."

The big business of the farmer-stockman is to provide the raw material for the food und clothing of the non-producers of the world. The people must be clothed und fed. Thousands of employables may be unemployed, the number on relief may run into the millions und yet they will be fed und clothed. They must be. Und to provide the necessities is the job of the men und women on the range und the ranch.

No matter vhat humanity can pay for a T-bone, there must be a calf und time before the cattleman can condition und ship a top two-year-old steer. There must be piggy und time before the hog man can ship a 200-pound hog und the wool grower must have und develop a lamb before he can shear a sheep.

The misdirected energies of energetic men who guess don't mesh well with the work on the range und the ranch, work done by farmers und stockmen—men guided by the "lamp of experience." Stockmen who know cannot afford to lay their limited knowledge at the feet of other men's unlimited 'ignorance. Und that Joe Bush says—is "nuff said."

THE LAMB MARKETS

In March

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BOTH branches of live mutton trade, dressed and live, are in the throes of uncertainty. Price fluctuations from week to week are violent and illogical.

During March top lambs sold in a range of \$8.25@9.60, between high and low points. Eastern dressed trade was even more erratic. For this eccentricity no logical explanation was assigned. At intervals killers bought greedily; frequently demand subsided suddenly. In the eastern dressed market, breaks and bulges were as much as \$3 per hundred in a week.

Toward the end of March, after one of the most effective bear raids of the season, about half the previous loss had been regained. Without halting the Chicago top advanced from \$8.25 to \$8.85, gaining as much as 40 cents on a single session. At the low point, \$8@8.25 bought the bulk of Colorado and other western fed lambs; at the crest of the resultant rise, \$8.50@8.85 was the market. Shorn stock was appraised about 75 cents per hundred below fleece lambs.

At the inception of April indications were that the trade was settling down to a more stable basis. Consensus of opinion is that "highs" and "lows" have been recorded. Colorado was credited with having about one third of its winter crop to liquidate. Nebraska was reducing its holdings weekly, and the winter lambs fed in the corn belt were no longer a price-making factor. Wisconsin had practically cleaned up, Michigan was carrying only a few thousand lambs in the shearing pens and feeders west of the Missouri River had the situation well in

On the break lambs were hit harder than the other species. At no time did top cattle drop below \$10 at Chicago, although a bear drive in the hog market carried average drove cost down to \$8.75; but the spread in lamb prices was always narrow, not to exceed 50 cents per hundred, while bulk of cattle sold in a spread of \$3; hogs \$1 per hundred. Dressed lambs on the eastern seaboard moved through the wholesale market mainly at \$14@17 per hundred.

During the week ending March 5 top lambs at Chicago cost \$9.20, the bulk selling at \$8.50@9 at the weekend. This established a new high point for the year on an advance of 50 to 60 cents per hundred for the week, sheep gaining 25@40 cents. Compared with the previous low spot of the year, two weeks earlier, lambs had gained \$1.75@2 per hundred. Shorn lambs sold at \$7.75@8.25, and fat ewes, \$3.50@4.

During the week ending March 12 the advance continued uninterrupted, reaching the highest level since early December. Fat lambs scored further gains of 25@35 cents; shorn stock, 40 cents, yearlings and sheep ruling

strong to 25 cents higher. High point of the rise was reached this week at \$9.60 for tops, \$9.25@9.50 taking the bulk of good to choice lambs. Weights of 100 to 110 pounds realized \$9.10@9.40, natives weighing 122 pounds selling at \$8.50.

The week of March 19 precipitated a decline of 35 to 50 cents on lambs, although \$9.50 was paid early in the week for a limited number and thereafter the trend was definitely to lower levels. From \$9.60 the top dropped to \$8.85. Shorn lambs fared better than wooled stock, the spread between the two grades narrowing to 75 cents per hundred. At the close of that week, \$8.25@8.35 bought the bulk of clipped stock. A handful of yearlings sold at \$7.75, wooled ewes at \$5.65, marking the highest level since August, 1937. Few ewes sold under \$4.

A sharp break during the week ending March 26 put top lambs \$1.35 under the high spot two weeks earlier and sheep broke 50 to 65 cents. By the close of the week \$8.25 stopped choice lambs, against \$8.75 at the

Comparative Prices Live and Dressed Sheep and Lambs

CHICAGO AVE	RAGE LIVE LAM	B PRICES	
Week Ending:	Mar. 26, 193	8 Mar. 19, 1938	Mar. 27,1937
Lambs:			
Choice	\$ 8.42	\$ 9.10	\$12.24
Good	7.85	8.52	11.80
Medium	7.02	7.70	11.20
Common	6.20	6.92	10.44
Ewes:			
Good and Choice	4.52	5.08	6.85
Common and Medium	3.29	3.66	5.22
Feeders:	*****	***	
Good and Choice			
NEW YORK AVERAGE	WESTERN DRES	SED LAMB PRI	CES
Lamb: (39-45 lbs.)			
Choice	\$16.75	\$17.65	\$20.05
Good	16.10	17.10	19.05
Medium (All Weights)	15.05	16.55	18.48
Common (All Weights)	13.80	15.80	17.75

opening; the bulk cost \$8@8.25 at the close, weights of 99 to 118 pounds costing killers \$7.75@8.10. Shorn lambs dropped from \$8@8.10 to \$7.40 @7.60 and the outside price on ewes was \$5.25, the bulk selling between that figure and \$4.50.

At this stage trade opinion was that low point of the season had been uncovered as during the final week sharp recovery was effected; top lambs reacted to \$8.85 and the bulk on packer and shipping account realized \$8.40@ 8.75 in the fleece, \$8@8.10 shorn. Ewes held at \$4.50@5.25.

An Erratic Market

Accounting for the eccentric nature of the market is difficult. Shipping demand, proverbially erratic, was a pronounced factor. At the Atlantic seaboard \$14.50 to \$18 per hundred absorbed the bulk of the dressed lambs marketed during March, but from day to day quotations varied 50 cents to \$1 per hundred. The early March rise was popularly attributed to the "Eat More Meat" campaign, although the slump exerted a disillusionizing influence. A practice of asking sharply higher dressed prices early in the week, then scaling quotations down to get a clearance is partly to blame. However, no necessity for stowing product away in freezers was encountered, killers taking the market to get a clearance. Eliminating certified and other choice carcasses, \$16 to \$17.50 per hundred absorbed the bulk of the dressed lamb on Atlantic seaboard markets during March.

Somewhat singularly, weight did not meet serious penalization. Buyers guessed weights low in many instances, otherwise prices paid for lambs weighing 100 pounds or more would not have been paid. Bulk of the lambs marketed at Chicago weighed 85 to 98 pounds, but many bands carried a long heavy end. The outstanding shipment of the month was the Farr lambs from Colorado that were consistent toppers from day to day.

Scarcity of shorn stock reflected wool market conditions and as packers were not anxious to increase heavy inventories, spreads between wool and shorn prices were only 75 cents to \$1 per hundred, the narrowest in trade history. Practically everything reached market fat enough for the meat rail, consequently shearers secured only a few thousand head. Buyers' wool credits were advanced 10 cents per hundred, live weight of the animal, to \$1.45, which compares with \$3.65 at the corresponding period of 1937, and penalizes the edible portion of the carcass to that extent.

Condition of the late winter supply has not reached expectation in killing circles. Warm weather is one attributed cause, stinting feed another. Until the March upturn developed, prices were so low that feeders were discouraged, many resorting to the expedient of merely carrying their holdings along at minimum cost in anticipation of higher prices later in the season. This put the market on a semi-starvation basis; feeders unloaded lambs in merely fair condition and killers balked. On sharp breaks loading was reduced; every bulge furnished incentive to go to market.

Killers contributed to resultant confusion by raiding prices on liberal receipts, which forced them to buy for numbers when the country balked. Not infrequently one or more buyers on the Chicago market, especially in competition with shippers, failed to secure a sufficient number to keep killing gangs going. As country buying is at low ebb at that season, in a scramble to get something to send over to the plant, intrinsic value was disregarded. Certainly breaks and recoveries of 50 cents per hundred overnight need more than superficial explanation on the theory that a reason exists for every thing.

Another reason for erratic markets is uneven supply. Information is available by radio wherever a bunch of lambs is on feed, truck transport is prompt and whenever a few more report at the market than killers anticipate price raiding is stimulated. On short runs killers must secure lambs to keep killing gangs at work; standing time payment is expensive.

That the season has been unprofitable, both to feeders and processors, will not be disputed. Lambs were put in high early last fall and although feeders have had the benefit of low-cost feed this advantage has not been sufficient to offset the investment. Feeders west of the Missouri River have resorted to every possible expedient to nurse the winter market, delaying liquidation of their holdings in the hope of a rising market late in the season. Colorado and Nebraska feeders had the benefit of the early March rise which doubtless effected substantial salvage. although the subsequent decline was discouraging. Corn belt losses were heavy as western lambs going into that section last fall were acquired during the period of maximum expense.

Prospective Supplies

At this writing Iowa, Illinois, Wisconsin and Michigan are practically bare of lambs in preparation for market. Having cleaned up supplies in adjacent territory, Iowa packers have been forced to go to Omaha and Denver to secure material. This has injected competition into the western trading sphere. Chicago and Omaha tops have been identical frequently. Colorado and Nebraska probably have a sufficient number of lambs back to enable them to figure in the supply movement until May, when California influence will be felt. Pacific Coast advices indicate that eastern packers had acquired a few new crop lambs up to early April, local killers taking the bulk for April delivery at 81/4@9 cents per pound. Chicago may or may not buy freely for May delivery at these prices. One Iowa packer is credited with taking 4000 head of Californias for April delivery. Chicago packers have sent buyers to California, but have merely prospected.

Killers are not believed to have lost money on their winter killing operations, although the usual conversation about "minus" profits is in circulation. Obviously they would not return to the market for replenishment if each day's purchase meant loss. Nor has heavy loss in feeding circles been general, as thousands of lambs have not

(Continued on page 40)

The Breeding and Preparation of a Top Clip

(Continued from page 28)

of conformation and covering, our aim being to approach a mutton type and at the same time retain and improve the fleece. Just prior to shearing, all fleeces are inspected for grade, length and strength of staple, color, density, crimp, uniformity, etc.

This top group of ewes each year is divided into a number of breeding groups and these are bred to particular rams which we always hope will prove to be the proper sort of mate. The purchased rams bred to these range ewes have been registered stud rams costing from \$100 to \$200 each.

A whole chapter or even a whole book could be written on the subject of exercise or activity in relation to fecundity and the growth of wool. Our ewes breed almost 100 per cent. Barren individuals are almost unknown. Suffice it to say here, lack of exercise is bad, too much may be even worse.

Feed

The subject of feed is no less important than that of breed. I have frequently heard the statement: "There is more in the feed than in the breed." I have heard my father say: "Two thirds of good breeding is in good feeding." These statements were made by range men who had perhaps witnessed failure of blood to perform satisfactorily. They had noted how some blooded animals and their offspring, after a few generations out upon the range, had dwindled to a state or condition below that of the stock already acclimated.

This may have been due to lack of feed, or care, or due to lack of adaptability of that particular strain. Breed and feed we may say are of equal importance and any argument as to which is of the greater importance is just time wasted.

Feed is of daily importance and the condition of the sheep's body to function depends upon the daily ration. Likewise, the growth of wool, which is the outgrowth of the outer layers of the skin, is dependent upon the func-

tioning of the animal's body. Therefore we may conclude that: As grows the grass, so grows the wool.

A year's staple is the result of a year's functioning on the part of the sheep, and so important is the relationship between the feed and the resulting wool clip that I venture to say that if the chemist could properly strain the fiber for examination and the microscope could so magnify this fiber, it would be possible to determine the general nature of the ration throughout that entire year of growth, even down to periods of a few days at a time.

According to Prof. J. F. Wilson of the University of California at Davis, a wool fiber of maximum strength is almost as strong as a strand of iron of the same diameter. There is evidently meaning in that expression "Strong as Iron" in speaking of good wool.

We do not even suggest that all wool could be grown to a maximum strength. Hazards of one kind or another are too often encountered. Our observation and experience on the one hand has taught us that tender or weak wool is due largely to lack of feed; and on the other hand that strong fiber in general results from the well-nourished animal.

I used to think it took just 365 days to grow a good fleece of wool. That is true provided the animal has a running start so to speak, at the beginning of the fiscal year. In other words, a sheep cannot start growing wool of maximum quality without first being in prime condition. To obtain this may have required at least several months' time.

My immediate ancestors were thoroughly convinced that well-pastured sheep, protected from wild beasts and predatory dogs, were not only highly productive but were highly self-reliant against parasites and disease. In the matter of producing vigorous lambs and good wool, they were so thoroughly impressed with the importance of good

pasture (feed) that they subscribed to the following principle as of the greatest importance: "Better a superabundance of feed always than ever a scarcity."

We must not overlook the fact that some years are poor feed years. Then it is necessary to sell accordingly and to furnish supplemental feed. In my country this may consist of native slashing of browse of oak, maple, madrone or mistletoe in the summertime, or it may consist of hay or concentrates for the wintertime.

Range Management

The caption of "Range Management" might well include everything about proper sheep culture out on the range.

We have aimed at good care and management along the following lines:

Prevent overgrazing of the range. Overgrazing is the basis of more evil than any other factor. It reduces the vitality and the productivity of the flock; tends to kill out the forage plants, the best ones going first. Overgrazing enhances the spread of disease and parasites. It paves the way for erosion, which is particularly important in regions of heavy rainfall or of heavy winds.

Overgrazed lands are particularly hard on young animals for these young animals need good forage plants-food stuffs rich in vitamins and minerals. Our practice was and is to give the ewe lambs and the yearling ewes the favored reserved pasture so they may build strong sturdy bodies. To do this, fences are necessary; but in my country fences and pastures were necessary from the first to keep neighboring ticky and scabby sheep from coming in contact with ours where neither ticks nor lice nor sheep scab ever gained the upper hand.

As stated above, fences were needed and especially effective ones were necessary when in the nineties we were obliged to construct such fences as would and did prevent the influx of coyotes, which predators were actually eating the sheepmen out of business in

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Nor has een genave not my part of the state. For 25 years these fences were the primary salvation of our business, which was maintained on a solid financial basis without loans or subsidies, without gold mines or oil wells or a job as a banker or lawyer or as a Senator or Governor.

From the earliest pioneer days, predatory animal control was important in the West. Not only were losses often terrific, but the detrimental effect on the survivors was no less marked. Our list of predators consists of the following: coyotes, brown bears, mountain lions, bob cats and ravens. To complete this list we should perhaps include predatory dogs and two-legged "varmints." All of these are a menace.

Sheep should be kept free from diseases and parasites for the prospects of a top clip may be blasted by the presence of these agencies. Severe infestations of liver fluke or the eastern stomach worm (or wire worm), etc., may set up a condition of veritable starvation of the sheep in the midst of plenty of food, with the result that the fleece may be only a mockery compared to the fleece of the healthy animal. I mention these things here because a flock that is continually harassed for any reason from any source, simply cannot produce a top clip.

Handling the Wool Crop

Besides the breeding and feeding and protection against external influences, there is another group of factors of vital importance in the preparation of a top clip. That is the care and management of the growing crop of wool. And it begins the day the sheep are shorn one year and continues steadily until they are shorn and the wool packed in the bag a year later.

Some general rules are suggested:

- Resort to wool branding only when necessary, using only recommended substances in the minimum amount.
- (2) All sheep should be tagged as often as necessary to prevent accumulation of dung locks. The amount of tagging depends on climate and feed

conditions; usually twice per year is sufficient. A complete tagging job should be done just before lambing.

- (3) Sheep should be ranged, corraled or housed in the cleanest manner possible, especially as the shearing season approaches.
- (4) Sheep should not be compelled or allowed to bed down in muddy, dusty, dirty places. Shrinkage is the most vital factor regarding the true value of a clip of wool. This factor is drawing more attention as time goes on. Dirt of any kind may add weight to the fleece and to the bag. It does not add value but does add expense to the operation of production. Believe it or not, it always has been our aim to put wool fiber into the bag, not extraneous matter.
- (5) In my state, grass seeds are a mighty important factor, especially concerning the pasturing of lambs through the first summer, and I suppose they are in other states as well. Shearing should be done in the spring of the year, always before the main portion of the feed dries and the seeds start to shell out. Lambs should be shorn at the same time, not for the value of the wool derived from them as much as for the good done to the lambs themselves. Lambs, if not shorn (and many times shorn ones), may pick up veritable plasters of grass seeds in their wool. These seeds may puncture the skin in thousands of places on a single animal, many times causing a death loss. A seed infestation may so reduce the condition of the lamb or sheep as to seriously damage the growing fleece.
- (6) Sheep should be shrunk at least half a day before being shorn and any dung locks should be removed beforehand.
- (7) Shearing should be done in a clean place; floors swept often, especially after any black wool has been cut.
- (8) Only good shearers should be employed. As with ranch attendants, they should handle the sheep carefully, and should have reasonable respect for the valuable crop they are removing. Second cutting reduces the value of the wool. It is a real task to get the wool

removed with a minimum of second cuts. The management should have a definite understanding with the shearers and should insist on the proper job. At the same time the employer should take no liberties with them regarding the work. Treat them fairly and squarely. Treat them as American citizens; and see to it that while they are in his employ they have good quarters and good food. A good fleece of wool is valuable-it represents a year's work and care and investment. Why depreciate its value by any improper clippings? But this is often done in a few minutes, even seconds, by careless or disgruntled shearers.

(9) Tying should be done by the management or the owner, never by the shearer. Nothing is more disgusting than to see the shearer boost a fleece toward the wool bin with the string flying after.

As soon as shorn, the fleece should be removed from the shearing floor and prepared for tying. A standard table is recommended but any table of sufficient size and clean may be used. Spread the fleece out, flesh side down. Remove any tags or dirty locks from the legs or brisket. Bellies may be removed and packed separately if desired. Fold in the edges and legs, double head end back nearly to the rear and roll from the rear, reasonably solid. Tie only with approved paper fleece twine.

This method of preparing the fleece for the bag enables the management to keep closer tab on the shearers' work: it should result in a uniform job of fleece packing. It will enable the buyer to make a better inspection of the clip. Without tearing the fleeces apart, the buyer can easily inspect the better and more valuable portions of the fleece (sides and shoulders). These are the portions of the fleece which the producer should exhibit for his own good.

(10) Standard staple fleeces; heavy rams' wool; lambs, black, defective, tags, crossbreds should be packed separately and so labeled.

All we have to say about the selling of wool is that the producer should study his business. Certainly he should ower

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acquaint himself in practice with the grade of wool, its qualities of length and strength and shrinkages, etc. This knowledge will enable him, in a measure, to talk the language of the buyer; and if the producer sells through any agency, his knowledge of the merits and demerits of the clip will enable him to better understand the sales report.

In conclusion, the above results are representative of what any intelligent individual can do if he pursues a relentless and consistent policy of rigid selection and flock management.

It is not a particularly hard job to grow a fleece of wool, but to grow a sizable clip of top quality is very much of an undertaking.

Like any other project it requires much work, the results are dependent on the knowing how and the doing how.

Troubles of a Minnesota Breeder

WE HAVE had a nice winter here in northern Minnesota, not much snow or cold weather. There is plenty of hay that can be purchased now (March 7) at five or six dollars a ton in the stack.

There are not many sheep in this section, although we have plenty of feed for them, especially during the summer on the cutover lands. However flies are bad and stomach worms cause a good deal of trouble where the sheep are kept in small pastures. My chief trouble, however, is what the veterinarians call prolapse of the vagina. It usually appears about ten days to a month before the ewes should lamb, affecting largely the biggest and fattest ewes, usually with twins, and mostly young ewes lambing for the first time.

County agents and local veterinarians have been at my place, but apparently are unable to locate the cause or give me instructions on how to prevent the trouble. It has come up each year during the last four and last year I lost fifteen out of eighty

ewes. I buy registered rams and do not inbreed.

If any western wool grower can send me some suggestions on how to prevent this disease, I'll surely appreciate it.

Hibbing, Minn.

A. A. Billings

Why Change?

RECENTLY a friend called my attention to a picture. It depicted a yoke of oxen hitched to a two-wheeled cart. The driver, a man well up in years, obviously possessed of but little of wordly goods and no desire to accumulate more, is portrayed sitting on a board atop the two-wheeled cart trundling slowly down a road. The caption under the picture was, "Why Change?"

This has set me to wondering. Who is the happier, the man speeding down the concrete highway in a modern, streamlined, highpowered car at 80 miles an hour or this veteran in his two-wheeled ox cart, creeping slowly over the trail just as his forebears did a century ago? The contrast presents a thought-provoking picture to us.

We of the genus homo are vain. We have turned modern during recent years. Sometimes we forget that thousands of years ago long before man had any conception of the modernistic things of today the turtle was possessed of a streamlined body, a turret top, a retractable landing gear and a portable house. But who wants to be a turtle? It is not so much when you started as whether you kept going. The turtle didn't change—man did.

We live in an age of change. There is nothing so certain as uncertainty. In this era of hectic ups and downs, man's ability to adjust himself to his surroundings and his fellow men is taxed to the limit. He is forced to use good, old-fashioned judgment or he will be swept into the sea of oblivion. There is nothing so uncommon as common sense. This characteristic is needed today in adapting one's self.

The person who applies yesterday's methods to today's living is out of the picture tomorrow. A person of that type is not unlike the man of whom it was said that all the exercise which he took was jumping at conclusions. We do not know what is ahead. We are certain that changes will occur. We know our problem will be that of adapting ourselves to these changes as they come.

Sometimes there has been a continuity which has seemed highly desirable. As I pen this paragraph I visualize the Goddess of Liberty as she stands upon the small island near the mouth of the Hudson River, a few knots off the lower tip of Manhattan Island with its Wall Street, its famous skyscrapers and its highly concentrated mass of humans. When the French gave us this big lady, a woman of Jewish faith, wrote the following inscription to put on the big girl's feet:

Give me your tired, your poor

Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,

The wretched refuse of your teeming shore—

Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost, to me—

I lift my lamp beside the golden door.

Fifty years ago we were a growing nation. New York was a landing port. We could not get human hands fast enough to expand and develop as we desired. There seemed ever to be a shortage of men and women to work in factories, mines, logging camps, and on farms. We did all in our power to encourage people to come. Today we have put up the bars. Obviously the inscription might as well be chiseled from the bunion upon the Goddess' concrete toe. Yet with all of this change the big, overgrown sister with the thirty-five foot waist measurement continues to be the most popular damsel in the U.S.A. Thank God she hasn't gone on a head lettuce and skim milk diet.

Lincoln, Nebr. H. J. Gramlich



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National Wool Growers Assn. 509 McCornick Building Salt Lake City, Utah

The Lamb Markets

(Continued from page 36)

only kept the invested capital together but paid the board bill.

Speculation concerning the outcome of the 1938 lamb crop is variable. That there will be enough lambs to go around does not need assertion. Disappearance of winter lambs will be followed by a free movement of new croppers, California, Tennessee, and Kentucky contributing. Missouri and the major portion of the corn belt are also well supplied with lambs, and packers are confident of easier picking in the Appalachian region, especially the Virginias, which promise an early run. Louisville, Nashville, and the set of crossroad markets in that area will be two to three weeks earlier at the market than usual. Current lamb prices are about \$2 per hundred lower than at the corresponding period of 1937, although there is no apparent possibility of repeating what happened then.

Crop prospects all over the corn belt are excellent. The extent to which corn acreage will be reduced by enforcement of the new A.A.A. Act is conjectural, but as most of it will be inferior land, yields will not be materially changed. The obvious purpose is to put corn into storage in the event that a bumper crop is garnered, creating uncertainty which may have the effect of restricting feeder lamb demand.

J. E. Poole

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Kansas City

L AMB prices in March moved within a \$1.25 range and closed net unchanged. February had closed with an \$8.35 top and in the first week of March the quotation was raised to a \$9.10 point. After a slight setback a subsequent rally uncovered \$9.25, but by mid-month the market was on the down grade and finally dropped to an \$8 level but rallied to close at \$8.40.

At the beginning of the month there was considerable encouragement in the trade due to the "Eat More Meat" campaign, which seemed to be producing results, but later consumer demand became dull and refused to follow a higher price basis. Wool demand was slow. At this time last year the wool market was in a strong position and was a material factor in the lamb market. From the supply point the fact that Colorado and Nebraska feeders have more lambs than a year ago tended to keep killers from buying against a time when meat demand might im-

prove. Also the movement of new crop lambs in California and Arizona was started in time to put a good many milk fat lambs in consumer channels in time for the Easter trade.

There has been a big difference in fed lambs this year. Northern Colorado, the Arkansas Valley and the Scottsbluff section have well-finished lambs, but other sections, especially Kansas and Southwest states, have produced weight but not much finish. Rough feed was plentiful and finishing feeds rather scarce. Killers say that northern Colorado and western Nebraska lambs have made much higher dressed percentages than other districts. The average weight of lambs from all sections was heavier than last year.

Shorn lambs brought \$7.25 to \$8.25 during the month, with \$8.25 being paid on eight market days. Toward the close \$7.75 was the top. It is the season of the year when more shearing will be done. Thus far there has not been a price advantage in shearing.

but some lambs are at the point where pelts are beginning to break and get "stringy."

The first new crop lambs were natives that showed up March 8 and sold at \$10. In the next ten days several lots sold at \$9.25 to \$10. The week beginning March 28 the first Arizona's arrived. They sold at \$9.25 to \$9.50, with weights ranging from 80 to 86 pounds. They were good and fat and suitable for the most exacting Easter trade. All told, around 5,000 spring lambs were in the March supply. Arizona has made wonderful strides in producing early lambs for market. Only a few years ago weights ranged from 65 to 75 pounds and they have been raised by earlier lambing and better handling to the 80-pound bracket.

The early new lamb crop is larger than last year. California and corn belt states will probably show the largest increase on the final count, but Texas is going to be in the running. Because of the wet season California lambs may round into condition rather

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late and the mild weather in February and March in the corn belt has been very favorable for young lambs.

Prices for fat sheep were advanced 25 to 50 cents the middle of March but later the gain was wiped out. At the high point fat ewes sold at \$5.25 to \$5.35, but on the close \$4.50 was the limit. Good yearlings sold at \$6.75 to \$7.50, but they were not available in sufficient numbers to test values fairly. Breeding ewes sold in a range of \$4 to \$7.50. Young ewes, the kind wanted the most, were scarce.

The market problem for the next sixty days is to keep fed lambs mov-

ing in even volume. Offerings of new crop lambs will be limited until early May and the bulk of the winter fed lambs can probably be worked off before that time so that they will not encounter much competition from springers. Some feeders, however, are holding for late marketing and they may meet an unfavorable market.

March receipts, 107,870, were 21,787 less than in the same month last year and the smallest in any March since 1927. The three months' total is 323,969, or 90,992 less than in the same period last year and likewise the smallest total since 1927. The decrease

is due entirely to the small feeding operations in this territory during the winter.

C. M. Pipkin

Denver

FAT lambs closed the month of March around 25 to 35 cents lower than at the opening while ewes were generally strong to 25 cents higher, Trade was active at Denver during the month. Receipts totaled 193,901 head. a decrease of around 15,000 head compared with receipts for the same month a year ago. Of this number, 180,000 head came from Colorado feed lots Wyoming shipped 6,500 head and small lots arrived from Texas and New Mexico. Around 12,000 head came from Utah and Idaho, a decrease of 27,000 compared with a year ago. Good fat lambs sold early in the month at \$8.50 to \$8.75 FPR and \$8.40 to \$8.55 flat. At the high time, during the second week of the month, most of the good lambs sold from \$9 to \$9.25 FPR and \$8.40 to \$9.10 flat. Shorn lambs brought \$8.10 to \$8.20. Sales late in the month were made from \$8.30 FPR down.

Feeding lambs sold around \$7.75 flat to \$8.40 FPR during the month. Early in March, good ewes brought \$3.75 to \$4.25 with choice kinds landing at \$4.50 flat. Late in the month good to choice ewes made \$4 to \$5.25.

During the month of March, 70 per cent of all sales of fat lambs at Denver or 120,000 head, were made for shipment to packers in interior Iowa and Atlantic Coast points, which was an increase of 43,000 over the same period a year ago for these points. A total of 100,000 fat sheep and lambs was slaughtered at Denver the first three months of this year.

W. N. Fulton

Omaha

AS FAR as prices on fat lambs went, there was little change from February in the closing levels on the Omaha market. At the end of March, as at the close of the previous

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feeding period, the market carried a strong undertone with promise of some imring the provement. Top at the close of March Pipkin was \$8.50, just equaling the price ruling a month earlier.

> Receipts of 132,488 head were larger than last month but were still smaller than last year and were the lightest on this market for the month of March since early in the century. The pick-up in the run over February was not unexpected as there were still many lambs to come to market. If the fed lamb supply is to be cleaned up before new crop lambs come in numbers, some increase must be expected.

> Fairly heavy movement of southern lambs was partially responsible, according to reports, for the recent sharp break in lamb prices which carried levels downward \$1.35 per hundred and from which they have not recovered entirely at the present time.

The wool trade continues to lag and while sealing of some of the clips may eventually bolster up prices, little if any immediate reaction has been noted. Reports of Anglo-American trade pacts still cause some disturbance and further worry mill operators who are running their business at around 30 per cent capacity. Pelt credits by the packers are reported to show slight advances for the month but are so much under a year ago that one need hardly look any further for the cause of the low lamb prices.

It is reported that there may be a considerable amount of shearing done in the Scotts Bluff area. Due to the small spread between woolskins and shorn lambs of comparable grade-50@75 cents at the close of the month -and the fact that losses already are heavy, many feeders claim they will shear and try to recoup part of their loss on an upturn in the wool trade. The spread between woolskins and clippers is the narrowest since 1933, at which time lamb prices were on levels approximately \$3 under today. How profitable this added effort will be is open to conjecture as 324,000,000 pounds more of apparel wool is reported to be stored in the six major producing countries than there was on the

first of March last year. Weather conditions during the next few weeks will probably exercise some control on the amount of shearing done.

A great divergence of opinion exists among local operators as to the immediate course of the market. Some look for further improvement and expect to see a short period in the near future when prices will enable them to clean out while others hold almost opposite views. There is complete unanimity on one point, however, and that is that the season to date has been the worst in many years.

Action on feeder lambs was usually

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good and the market generally followed closely the pattern of the killer trade. During the latter part of the month interest in shearing lambs was aroused and anything with enough finish for a quick turn was taken at 25@50 cents under good fat lamb prices.

Aged sheep, especially during the latter days of the month, were in too limited a supply to really test the trade but actual sales were completed at higher levels than those ruling a month earlier. Action on breeding ewes eased off after there had been considerable activity on that class during the first part of the period.

James A. Lonsbury

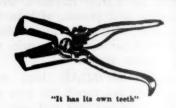
St. Joseph

RECEIPTS for the month were liberal, the total being 115,465 compared with 91,211 in February and 118,161 in March a year ago. Of the month's total 50,268 were from Colorado feed lots, 37,524 from Nebraska, 2,477 from Wyoming, and 8,619 from Texas, New Mexico, and Oklahoma.

Quality of lambs was generally good, though weights were heavy on some. The market on all classes was uneven, but closing prices are practically unchanged with a month ago. The month opened with best lambs at \$8.50. There was a gradual upturn in prices, top lambs reaching \$9.35 on the 10th. After this date the market was up and down, and closed with best at \$8.50, others selling down to \$8. Clips sold up to \$8.25 during the month, with choice kinds quoted around \$8 on the extreme close. Choice ewes sold up to \$5.15 at the high time, but \$4.75 was about the limit on the close. Choice yearlings were quoted up to \$7.50 late, with yearlings and twos \$5@6.

H. H. Madden

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Around the Range Country

(Continued from page 14)

Maxwell (Colusa County)

Range conditions here have been fair. Lambing conditions are fair, but it is too wet (March 22).

It looks as if wool is valued from 18 to 23 cents.

At present there is a tendency toward liquidation of sheep outfits by creditors.

Coyotes are as numerous as ever. It is too wet to trap.

The sheep business is not on a sound basis—feed too high, tariff uncertainty, labor troubles, with costs up and the bankers scared.

S. G. L.

Cloverdale (Sonoma County)

We have had rain from February 1 to February 22. Feed conditions are good (March 1), better than average. The number of range sheep getting hay and grain is smaller than usual. Baled hay is \$22 per ton.

The number of ewes bred to lamb this year is less than a year ago, due to excessive winter losses in 1936 and 1937. Winter losses this year are much smaller.

Walter Sink

OREGON

Cold, frosty weather predominated in much of the state, with occasional precipitation as rain or snow, which was much heavier in western counties. Farm work was delayed by the last week's cold, stormy weather, and it was unfavorable for lambing. Most livestock have occupied spring ranges, and are making satisfactory gains.

Burns (Harney County)

March was the worst month we had all winter, snowing practically every day; but at this writing (March 30), it has changed for the better. We have more moisture on the ground than we have had for years. Therefore, the spring range will be good, although late.

Most of our lambing is done on the range, and starts about the 5th of April.

The number of sheep has decreased materially in this locality.

No doubt some of the sheepmen will take advantage of the wool loan as a drowning man clings to a twig.

The coyote situation is the worst handicap that the sheepman has had to contend with this last year. They took about 10 per cent of the lambs between lambing and shipping. To my mind, a federal bounty, to be paid in all the eleven western range states, will be the only solution.

Peter Obiague

WASHINGTON

Favorable grain and grass weather occurred much of the month, but the last week was too cold. Moisture has been ample everywhere. Most fields are too wet to work. There is now a good prospect for spring forage in pastures and on open ranges. Lambing is nearly done with no losses attributable to the weather. Livestock are generally in good and thriving condition.

Ellensburg (Kittitas County)

Up to the 16th of March it was fine and warm. Since then we have had lots of rain and snow, but no cold weather. Prospects for early feed were never better (March 24).

We have had very favorable conditions for lambing, and have had no losses. About the same number of ewes were bred to lamb this year.

I don't think very many growers will avail themselves of the wool loan in this locality.

There has only been one case here of a sheep outfit being liquidated by creditors.

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Dakota. For booklet, address the secretary.

This has been a good winter for the coyote trappers.

H. L. Anderson

Bickleton (Klickitat County)

The feeding of hay and grain this year has been much lighter than in previous years. The number of range sheep is smaller. Alfalfa hav in the stack is \$10 a ton (March 2).

The number of ewes bred to lamb in 1938 is less than one year ago. However our loss of ewes was much smaller this winter than one year ago.

Coyotes are more numerous around here. The bounty is too low.

In many instances, the sheepherder protects game on the national forests. Only the sheep-killing bear is killed.

Roy L. Glasco

IDAHO

Temperatures were mild, or nearly seasonal, until the colder spell of the closing week. Rains and snows occurred frequently, and in some places amounts were copious. Pastures. ranges and winter grains were benefited by the moisture and the absence of severely cold weather. Livestock have been turned out on spring pastures in some sections, and are mostly in fairly good condition.

Mackay (Custer County)

Sheep in this district have wintered quite well. The outlook for spring feed is better than for years (March 11).

Although trappers have done real well in this vicinity, there are still plenty of coyotes.

We are beginning to wonder what the "New Deal" has done to all wool and pelt buyers.

Thatcher Kimball

MONTANA

Seasonable temperatures prevailed, with no severely cold weather, though moisture was deficient in most parts during the middle portion of the month. Windy weather served to deplete soil

moisture appreciably. Most conditions were favorable for livestock. Grass has started, with ample moisture for current needs. Livestock are in good shape, many of them having been turned out on old pasturage, because the snow cover is gone.

Cohagen (Garfield County)

Weather for March has not been so bad, although the range is poor (March 29). It is about the same all the way around as in the last three years.

Conditions have been favorable for March lambing, but there is very little lambing done here until May. There were not so many ewes bred to lamb this year.

I think some growers will avail themselves of the wool loan.

There are a few cases of liquidation of sheep outfits by creditors.

There are not so many covotes here. A plane has been around here this winter and taken out some covotes. I think poison should never be used in killing coyotes. The worst and sliest coyotes can be caught with trail hounds. but there are people that don't like hounds.

If the wool situation doesn't improve, we in Montana might as well let the Orient supply the trades.

H. C. Smith

Alder (Madison County)

After an exceptionally mild and open winter, spring was ushered in this week (March 28) by intermittent, very wet snowfall, amounting in all to well over a foot. As a result, the range is in better condition than it has been for several years, insuring abundant and early grass. Livestock in general are in excellent condition, and the prospects are for a large lamb crop. In fact, the only discouraging part of the picture is the price situation, a situation which could be improved to a considerable extent in Washington, D. C., should the "powers there be" use their intelligence and be so inclined.

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orted in this section, but coming twoear-old ewes in the wool and bred to ure for amb in May could be purchased for n good 10 a head.

Coyotes continue to give considerble trouble and to date have been ept down to some extent by private rappers. But now it appears as though ve would get some better results by mploying a paid trapper, under the upervision of the Biological Survey, March the work to be financed by the creation he way of a revolving fund through the cooperaion of the Survey, the county and the heepmen; the proceeds from the fur and bounty to be turned into the fund. The agreement provides for trapping the year around

> There has not been a case of a herder or other employee in our outfit killing any wild game out of season for twelve or fifteen years; game on the summer range, especially deer, are frequently seen and appear to be decidedly on the increase, There is considerably more game killed illegally by townspeople going out on weekends into the mountains than by the men who live in the hills. It makes one wonder as to the end and the justification of this hue and cry over conservation of wildlife. The idea of saving game just to slaughter it later on, such as the annual slaughter which takes place around Gardiner, north of Yellowstone Park every winter, is about as fair and logical as the exclusion of livestock from the national forests to make a playground.

The hue and cry is becoming more prevalent all the time for more recreational ground and more wildlife, yet quoting from an article in the March issue of the Reader's Digest, condensed from Outdoor Life, by Raymond S. Spears, Conservation Director, America Trappers' Association, "The continental domain of the United States is three million square miles—and two thirds of it is wilderness, unoccupied and untamed." He says he knows because he has hunted, fished and packjourneyed up and down America for weeks at a time without striking a paved road or seeing a human dwelling. He goes on to say, "Nor does this wild terrain consist wholly of desert and

marsh. Much of it is beautifully timbered, amply watered, and-surprisingly enough-readily accessible. There are regions less than three hours distant from New York City where the woodsman's axe has never been heard." He goes on to describe a large wilderness at the juncture of Utah, Arizona, New Mexico and Colorado, and further states, "This fastness is merely one link in a wilderness stretching from Canada to Mexico between the Rocky Mountains and the Sierra Nevadas. Tourists on transcontinental routes cross it and, because they roll through scattered towns, believe the hinterland is also inhabited. But anyone venturing even a few miles off the highway finds himself in prairie country, high, wide and lonesome-hundreds of thousands of square miles infested by mountain lions and gray wolves." He describes other wild country in nearly every part of the United States and says, "East of the Mississippi there are wilds as rugged and uninhabited as any in the West - - -. All in all, more than 2,000,000 square miles of wilderness is available to any citizen of this much urbanized country of ours, and much of it can be reached just by turning a little way off some traffic-congested concrete highway."

The hundreds of thousands of people dependent upon the livestock industry owe this man a vote of gratitude for this article, because he seems to be one who has been there and knows.

At any rate, there is much writing on the wall and it behooves the people seeking a livelihood from the livestock industry to become more strongly and closely united and organized, or else-

S. E. Whitworth

Saco (Phillips County)

Except for the blizzard on the last two days, March brought us nice weather. The range in this locality is the best in the last five years. The ground seems well soaked and the grass has started or is ready to start (April 2).

Most of the lambing is done during May. Our crop will not be so large this year because the number of ewes

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bred is about 20 per cent short of that of last year.

Unless buyers offer a satisfactory price, I think a good many wool growers will take advantage of the Commodity Credit Corporation loan. There is no liquidation going on here.

There are not enough hunters at work and so coyotes are gaining on us.

L. B. Slavmaker

WYOMING

Most of the month was unusually mild, with frequent precipitation, favorable for spring forage. The mountains contain plenty of snow. Livestock are doing well with ample feed, excepting in some far western areas. Conditions were unusually favorable for sheltered lambing, and very few losses were reported due to weather conditions.

Scientists Look Under Skin to Determine Hide Qualities

BETTER animal skins make better leather and sell at higher prices, but little research work has been done to determine what makes some animals produce better hides than others.

A step in this little explored field of research was made recently by leather specialists of the U. S. Department of Agriculture when they had the opportunity to study the skins from nine sets of twin lambs raised under controlled feeding conditions.

"The results show the prospect for more basic information which may reveal quantitatively the influence that essential animal life factors, such as breeding, feeding, sex, and environment have upon hide quality," says R. W. Frey, in charge of leather investigations for the Bureau of Chemistry and Soils.

In the lamb skin study, one each of the nine sets of twin lambs was placed on full feed. The other twin was given just enough feed for normal subsistence. At the slaughter time the full-fed twins weighed almost twice as much as the underfed lot and the skins from the full-fed lambs weighed from two to two and a half times as much when fresh, cured, or tanned. The size of the full-fed lamb skins naturally was greater—one and a half times larger, in fact. In addition the leather from the full-fed lot averaged nearly two times thicker and one and two thirds times stronger.

Skins and leather from the full-fed lot had distinctly larger fibers, a higher angle of weave (that is, the interlaced fibers of the skin were in a more nearly vertical position), a more open fiber structure and a coarser, higher grain. The coarser grain, says Mr. Frey, no doubt was caused by the heavier growth of wool on the full-fed lambs. Too, the higher angle of weave and the larger fibers—usually associated with stronger leathers—were off-

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set in the case of the full-fed twins by the looseness of weave compared with the more densely woven fibers of the under-fed group.

"This work merely points to a new field for research," Mr. Frey stresses. "When we have a more adequate background of information it will make possible the more accurate evaluation of hides and skins before they are made into leather. Consequently, the producer would be better informed as to their value and the tanner could buy more intelligently."

News from Canadian Breeder

ONDITIONS here in Alberta have not been good for a number of years. Prices have been low for wool. lambs, wheat and beef; those for hogs and horses have been good. Nineteen thirty-seven saw an improvement in wool prices, which went up to 24 cents for a short time before shearing; but few, if any sales were made at that figure. Most of the wool was sold to private buyers at around 20 or 21 cents a pound. So far (February 22) w have had no report on the Canadian Co-op's net price, but it will probably be five or six cents below the price the early sellers received.

Lowering the duty on Australian lamb has hurt the price of feeder lambs and will probably hit the feeders this spring, but we hope to get it raised again, to stay, we hope.

Range conditions here have been balfor the last few years, due to lack of rain. A slight improvement occurred last year, but there was not enough moisture to make conditions good. Free range in southern Alberta is a thing of the past: all ranchers muleither own or lease their grazing land. Land values, however, have come down considerably the last few years. Lands that were formerly held around \$20 an acre can be bought anywhere from a dollar or two an acre up, according to quality, watering conditions, and so forth.

Calgary, Alta., Canada Jack Canuck